

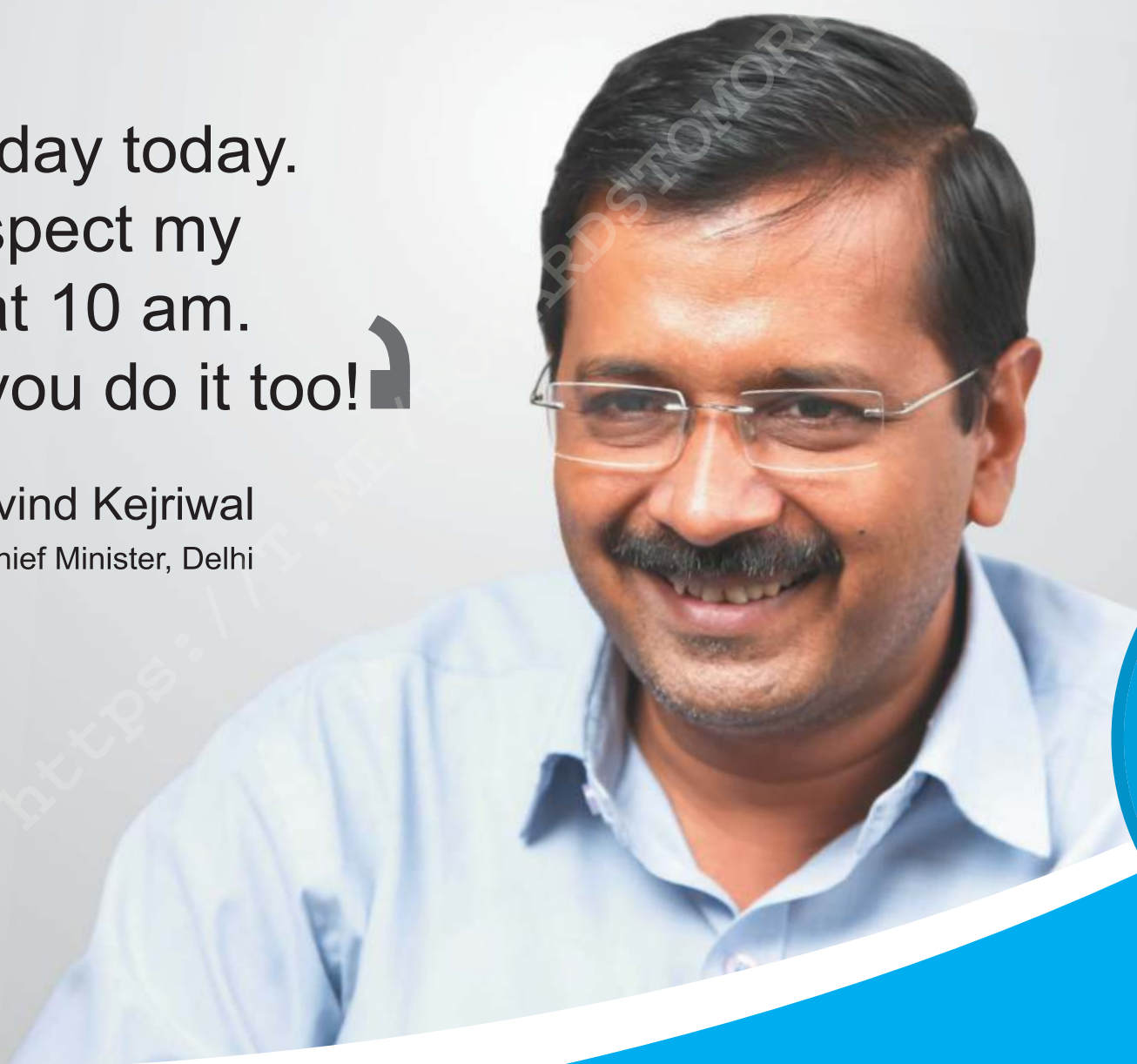
IT'S SUNDAY!

Come join this fight against Dengue today

10 हफ्ते . 10 बजे. 10 मिनट.

It's Sunday today.
I will inspect my
house at 10 am.
I hope you do it too!

- Arvind Kejriwal
Chief Minister, Delhi



डेंगू के
वार हर
रविवार

Dear Delhiites,

Today at 10 o'clock, we have to inspect our homes to check if clean water has accumulated anywhere. We have to ensure that clean water has not collected inside flowerpots, coolers, vases, or anywhere inside or outside our house. If clean water has accumulated, we need to pour it out, change it, or add petrol or oil to it. We should inspect our homes every Sunday at 10 am for the next 10 weeks to save our family from Dengue and Chikungunya. After inspecting your house, do take a selfie and WhatsApp it to 8287972050

दिल्ली कर दिखाएगी

दिल्ली सरकार
आप की सरकार

Health Department, Government of NCT of Delhi

दिल्ली सरकार
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Delhi govt. to examine amended provisions of Motor Vehicles Act

Delhi Traffic Police enforces revised fines from midnight on Saturday

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government will examine the amended provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, 2019, related to the imposition of on-the-spot cash fines on errant drivers before notifying these even as the Delhi Traffic Police will begin enforcing revised fines – to be paid by offending drivers at designated city courts – from midnight on Saturday.

Section 200 of the MV Act authorises the Delhi government to issue a Gazette notification for compounding of certain offences indicating who will be the person or official who can compound the offences and as to what



would be the amount for which the offences can be compounded.

“Since heavy penalties have been prescribed under the Act after a gap of many years, the compounding notification will be issued with serious consultation with traffic police and other sta-

keholders,” the Delhi government said, adding that it would take a decision on the matter “in a day or two”.

‘Files reached late’

According to a senior Delhi government official, one of the reasons behind its decision to keep the notification pending was the fact that the file pertaining to it had reached the office of the Transport Minister “late on Friday evening”.

Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Narendra Bundela said that the revised challans will be issued from 12 a.m. on September 1. “We are yet to receive a notification from the government authorising officers [rank-

wise] to issue challans to be paid in cash. However, revised challans will be issued Sunday onwards to be paid in court till the notification is received,” he said.

While the Delhi government said it “welcomes” the amendments made in MV Act 2019, as penalties are likely to result in reduction in accidents and improve the compliance of traffic rules, it “should not negate the effect of changes”.

“It [the amended rules] should facilitate the enforcement agencies otherwise their officers will remain busy in court cases only if the offenders do not agree for compounding amount, the statement added.

Gurugram’s garment industry feels slowdown heat

Slew of factors affecting state of affairs; some businessmen fear situation to worsen

ASHOK KUMAR
GURUGRAM

With the slowdown hitting the industries across the spectrum, the around 1,200 garments units in the Millennium City, providing direct and indirect employment to lakhs of people, are too feeling the heat because of a slew of local, domestic and foreign factors, including the liquidity crunch due to delay in Goods and Services Tax refunds.

Matrix Clothing Private Limited director Vipin Kumar Gupta told *The Hindu* that August and September were usually a lean period for garments exports to the United States and Europe and the business would pick up in October normally.

However, there was an “extraordinary” slowdown this year compared to the previous year. He, however, allayed the fears that it was a spillover effect of the slump in the automotive industry. “It has nothing to do with the automotive sector. But there is a fear that it might also impact the garments industry in the long run,” said Mr. Gupta.

Slump in demand

Conceding the slowdown, Richa and Company General Manager Amardeep Dagar at Udyog Vihar Phase-I said

India has been hit both ways since the export of fabrics from India to Bangladesh has also gone down. Bangladesh now procures it from China

ANIMESH SAXENA
Neetee Apparel LLP CEO

they were into cent per cent garments exports business – 95% to the United States and 5% to the U.K. – and had witnessed a slump of 10%-15% in the demand beyond the usual slowdown during this part of the year. “We are into exports of women garments and lost around 60% business since July,” said Mr. Dagar. He said that there were no layoffs as of now on account of slowdown, but the worsening situation could lead to job loss as well.

There are 343 garments exports units in Gurugram registered with the Apparel Export Promotion Council and total exports till January this year is ₹1,000 crore. It was ₹1,200 crore for 2017-18.

According to industry insiders, the Indian garments sector has been fast losing exports business to Bangladesh, China, Vietnam and Indonesia primarily on account

of high labour cost and lack of technological advancement, besides other factors.

Duty waiver

Mr. Saxena claimed that Bangladesh and Vietnam garments exports to the U.S. were around three times compared to the India. In Europe too, Bangladesh had an edge over India since it enjoyed complete duty wavier.

Bangladesh garments industry also poses a serious threat to the domestic garments industry with the imports from the neighbouring country registering a growth of around 160% over the past few years, said Neetee Apparel LLP CEO Animesh Saxena at Udhog Vihar Phase-I.

As a member of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, Bangladesh enjoys duty-free import of raw material from India and China. “India has been hit both ways since the export of fabric from India to Bangladesh has also gone down. Bangladesh now procures it from China. With the domestic brands in India buying from Bangladesh, the domestic garments industry has been hit,” said Mr. Saxena.

Post-GST, the industry has been hit with the imposition of the tax on garments and the delay in GST refunds,

ranging from four to six months, causing liquidity crunch. Since most of the garments industry falls in the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises category, it has been hit hard by the liquidity crunch.

Besides, the government has withdrawn or reduced certain tax benefits to the garments industry over the past two years putting it under financial stress. The Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS), under which Duty Credit Scrips were given to the entrepreneurs with the tax benefit of around 4%, has been withdrawn from August 1, said Mr. Saxena.

The entrepreneurs are apprehensive that the government pushing for shift to piped natural gas will also add to the financial burden making them further uncompetitive in the market.

Due to sky-rocketing land prices, expansion of business is another challenge for the garments industry in the Millennium City. “Due to high cost of land, many garments factory owners plan to shift to Jharkhand. The Jharkhand government is not just providing land at concessional rates, but also offering huge refunds on the wages and power subsidy,” said Mr. Saxena.

Ex-Army man held for duping people

He was expelled from service in 2016

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A former Army man has been arrested for allegedly cheating people by replacing their ATM cards and withdrawing money, the police said on Saturday. He was expelled from service in 2016, they said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (South West) Deven-der Arya said that the accused has been identified as Rajender Singh Meena, a resident of Rajasthan who is found involved in 16 other cases.

He is, however, called the Robinhood in his village as he spent the money he made by duping people on the village and the people.

Complaint

The police said that one Neeraj Kumar, a resident of Bihar, approached them. He said he, along with his friend, was staying at a hotel in Delhi’s Mahipalpur and around 11.30 a.m. on August 23, he went to withdraw money from an ATM in Mahipalpur, but the transaction was declined due to

some technical problem.

A person standing behind Mr. Kumar allegedly told him that the ATM was slow and took his card on the pretext of helping him withdraw money. He cleverly replaced Mr. Kumar’s card with another ATM card, a senior police officer said.

Moments later, Mr. Kumar received a message on his mobile phone regarding the withdrawal of ₹30,000 from his account through an ATM card. Suspecting foul play, he rushed to the same ATM kiosk along with a police officer.

The person was spotted and identified by Mr. Kumar at the ATM kiosk after which the accused was arrested, Mr. Arya said.

During interrogation, it was revealed that Meena used to hack ATM machines by inserting an instrument and then dupe people on the pretext of helping them. “He has served the Armed forces for 18 years but was dismissed after he was accused of theft,” Mr. Arya added.

Woman kills self in city

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

A 26-year-old woman allegedly died by suicide in south Delhi’s Fatehpur Beri, the police said on Saturday.

They were informed about the incident around 8.40 p.m. on Friday.

No note left behind by the deceased was found on the spot, the police said.

Suicide prevention helpline: Sanjivini, Society for Mental Health, 011-4076 9002 (Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m. -7.30 p.m.)

Man kills wife for refusing to get into prostitution, held

Body was found in early August

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 27-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly killing his wife in south-west Delhi’s Sagarpur for refusing to get into prostitution, the police said on Saturday.

DCP (South West) Deven-der Arya said that the accused has been identified as Jalil Sheikh, who hails from West Bengal. He was arrested for killing his wife Fatema Sardar in the first week of August.

Jalil strangled her with and dumped her body. The police had on August 6 received a call regarding a woman’s body, wrapped in a blanket and plastic bag, found dumped in Shivpuri Kallad. They reached the spot and sent it for post-mortem. A murder case was filed.

“On August 17, the police received a call from West Bengal. The caller identified

himself as the victim’s relative. He identified the woman as Fatima Sardar and told them that she was living in Delhi with her husband Jalil Sheikh for the past few years,” Mr. Arya said, adding that Jalil was found absconding.

A police team then went to West Bengal’s South Parganas, but were informed that he had left his house and switched off his phone. The accused, however, was arrested on a tip-off from Kolkata’s Ballygunge railway station on August 28 and brought to Delhi.

During interrogation, he told the police that he has two wives – one was Fatema and the other lives in West Bengal. “Fatema and Jalil had come to Delhi around seven years ago and got married in 2014. The accused was earlier arrested in a human trafficking case, the police said.

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- LAJPAT NAGAR, 49, Main Ring Road, Adj. Haldi Ram, Near Moolchand Crossing

Willpower unmarred for couple on wheelchair

They believe wheels do not make a difference, people can lead a very normal life

HEMANI BHANDARI
NEW DELHI

Around 10 a.m., Deepak Maggo (31) sat on his wheelchair and stepped out of his house. He hopped on to his car and showed how he drives to work everyday using a hand-operated kit.

Deepak’s wife Achala, 32, a senior tax assistant in the Income Tax office, drives an SUV. “*Mujhe hamesha bhagna tha, udna tha. Bas rengna nahi tha* [I always wanted to run, to fly. I never wanted to crawl],” she said.

Deepak and Achala, both wheelchair users, got married in April 2017 after meeting on Facebook two years before that. Today, their message to wheelchair-bound people is that they can lead a “very normal” life and the wheels should not make a difference.

Ms. Achala took completely to wheels in 2014, months after she met with a car accident near her house in Ashok Vihar. Recalling the incident, she said she had pressed the accelerator instead of applying brake and rammed a car. The incident, she said, left a scarring impact on her mental health.

Spinal illness

“I was about three years old when the doctors diagnosed me with a spinal illness. I was able to walk properly till I was eight, but an operation went wrong. Since then, I



Deepak and Achala got married in 2017. ■SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

used a stick to walk and underwent a series of therapies, including stem cell, but nothing helped. After the accident, I started suffering from mental illness and took medicines. I could not deal with it and thought of ending my life,” she said.

College dropout

Another setback she recalled, was when she had to drop out of a Delhi University college during graduation. There was lack of infrastructure, classes were on first floor and I was falling randomly, she said. “I recall giving up hope completely that year. But then I studied German and took tuitions at home. Meanwhile, I took Staff Selection Commission Exam and finally got a government job in 2014. Life has been better since then because people are extremely helpful and infrastructure at work is also very supportive,” she said.

Mr. Maggo, on the other

hand, comes from a fairly humble background. “I was always independent because I learnt to “crawl” very early in my life. I rarely used a wheelchair till a few years ago. I used to always crawl. I remember crawling in front of 500 people when I was preparing for Chartered Accountant exams and no one made me feel any less,” he said. Mr. Maggo could not clear the examination but now works as a supervisor at the New Delhi Railway Station.

The couple said that wheelchair-bound people connect with each other on Facebook to be able to share their woes and that is how the two met. Mr. Maggo sent a friend request to Ms. Achala. They met, she counselled him into going out of his comfort zone and join sports activities. In the second meeting, he proposed marriage to her.

Ms. Achala recalled taking a year and a half to decide whether it was a wise

decision to marry someone who is also on a wheelchair.

“My mother was very possessive. She was not sure whether two wheelchair-bound people would be able to lead a good life. But we discussed how it would be better for us to be together because we were both in the same position and would be able to understand each other better,” she said.

Making trips

The two went to Dubai for their honeymoon and have been taking trips across India since marriage. They make sure the accommodation they are selecting has no accessibility issues. “We also check if the washroom doors can let our wheelchairs in; it is very important,” said Ms. Achala. She is thankful to her husband for making her confident about travelling, something she was apprehensive about before she met him. “I went to Vaishno Devi with my friends 10 years ago and crawled all the way up. It built my confidence,” said Mr. Maggo.

They have shared travelling videos on their YouTube channel named “Perfect Couple on Wheelchair”. But how do they call themselves a perfect couple? “I support him mentally and emotionally and he supports me physically,” she smiles.

DELHI POLICE

SHANTI SEWA NYAYA

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Table with 2 columns: Location and AQI. Rows include Delhi (114), Gurugram (71), Ghaziabad (114), Faridabad (56), Noida (134), Greater Noida (136). Legend: Good (0-50), Satisfactory (51-100), Moderate (101-200), Poor (201-300), Very poor (301-400), Severe (>401).

DELHI TODAY

Dance: Third day of 23rd edition of Parampara Series will feature a Kathak dance recital by Kumudini Lakshia Troupe and a Hindustani vocal by Jayateerth Mevundi at Kamani Auditorium, Mandi House, 7 p.m.
Talk: Lecture on "What is Political Cruelty? Ambedkar, Gandhi, and the Liberalisms of our Fear" by Aishwary Kumar, Professor in moral and political philosophy at the Department of History of Consciousness in University of California, Santa Cruz. Followed by a conversation with Prathama Banerjee, CSD5 at Gulmohar Hall, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 7 p.m.
Exhibition: Delhi Contemporary Art Week by Exhibit 320, Blueprint 12, Gallery Espace, Gallery Latitude 28, Nature Morte, Shrine Empire, Vadehra Art Gallery at Visual Arts Gallery, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Culture: Sankhabhishekam, Deeparadhana. Pushpa Alankaram, Shodasopachara Pooja, Ashtotra Archana with 108 Doorva, at Sri Karunya Maha Ganaptahi Temple, Mayur Vihar Phase - 2, 7:30 a.m. (Mail your listings for this column at cityed@tordelhi@thehindu.co.in)

Court acquits four men accused of raping minor

NIRNIMESH KUMAR NEW DELHI
A Delhi court has acquitted four persons in a case of alleged kidnapping and rape of a minor, holding that the victim had of her own accord accompanied the accused persons and established physical relationship with one of them.
The police had charged only one of the accused for sexually assaulting the victim. Additional Sessions Judge Umed Singh Grewal set all the accused free, holding that the victim was a major at the time of the incident in 2008 and had gone with them willingly.
"As per MLC of the prosecutrix, her secondary sexual characters were well developed. It shows that victim was either major or on the verge of attaining majority. Even in that eventuality, the investigating officer did not conduct her ossification test for determining the age," the judge said.

Road rage: man thrashed by two, dies

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI
In a suspected case of road rage, a 23-year-old man died after he was beaten in north-east Delhi's Jaffrabad on Friday night. Two persons, including a minor, have been held in connection with the case, the police said.
DCP (North East) Atul Thakur said that the victim has been identified as Sahil Singh and the accused as Chanderbhan (43), both residents of Maujpur.
The police said that Sahil was returning home on his bike when the incident happened. "When he was crossing the street around 10 p.m., Chanderbhan and the 17-year-old accused were standing there. They told him to drive carefully after which an argument broke out. The argument turned ugly and the victim and the accused thrashed each other. Sahil also sustained injuries," Mr. Thakur said.

Health deteriorated
Shortly after Sahil returned home, he started feeling dizzy. He also puked. He was then rushed to Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital where he was declared brought dead. Mr. Thakur said that police were informed about the incident by the hospital around 1.30 a.m., after which they reached the hospital.
A case under IPC Sections 302 and 34 has been registered.

Man held at IGI airport for impersonation

Accused booked tickets using another man's Aadhaar card

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI
A 37-year-old man was arrested at Indira Gandhi International Airport for allegedly impersonating another person, the police said on Saturday.
Deputy Commissioner of Police (IGI Airport) Sanjay Bhatia said that the accused has been identified as Rajesh Kapoor, a resident of Paharganj.
The police said that on Thursday, they received a complaint from Vistara Airlines' Duty Manager Sayantan Ghosh who alleged that Rajesh Kapoor travelled by a Vistara flight from Delhi to Srinagar and returned to the national capital by impersonating one Sachin Gupta. He was later arrested at the Delhi airport.



Mr. Bhatia said that a case under Sections 417 (cheating), 447 (criminal trespass) and 419 (cheating by personation) of the Indian Penal Code was registered against the accused.

Thefts
During investigation, it was revealed that the accused has been previously in-

volved in cases of theft. He told the police that he has been blacklisted by several air carriers who have barred him from flying. "He impersonated Mr. Gupta and used an Aadhaar card to book a flight from New Delhi to Srinagar and returned in another flight of the same airline on Thursday," Mr. Bhatia said.
"He has lived in Singapore and Malaysia for two years and while travelling on plains, the accused got the idea of stealing credit cards and other valuables of co-passengers," Mr. Bhatia said. The police said that the accused would target people while he travelled as he thought that his chances of getting caught were less as people hardly suspect thefts while on the plane.

Man kills sex worker for refusing to live with him

He had an extramarital affair with victim

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI
A 32-year-old street vendor has been arrested for allegedly killing his girlfriend, a sex worker, and chopping her body into pieces in Rohini's K.N. Katju Marg, the police said on Saturday.
DCP (Special Cell) P.S. Kushwah said that the accused has been identified Mohd. Ayub alias Vicky, a resident of Turkman Gate, who allegedly killed his girlfriend Lata alias Salma.
The police were informed about a woman's mutilated body found in the Bawana canal on August 21. The unidentifiable body was sent for post-mortem. The police registered a murder case and teams were formed to identify the victim.
Days later, the Special Cell received a tip-off that on Friday, one Mohd. Ayub, who had committed a murder, was planning to flee from Delhi. A trap was laid at Turkman Gate and the accused was arrested.
The accused told the police that he had met Lata about four years ago during his visit to G.B. Road, a red-light area in the Capital. Eventually, he fell in love with her and got into an extramarital relationship with the woman, the police said. "After four years of relationship, he started forcing Lata to quit her profession and start living with him. He also proposed marriage but she would always refuse. Dejected, he murdered her on August 20," Mr. Kushwah said.

Notice in Hindi regarding a public hearing (कुटेशन नोटिस) for a case related to a road accident. It mentions a public hearing on September 1, 2019, at 10:00 AM, at the District Court, Delhi. The case involves a road accident on August 21, 2019, near the Bawana Canal. The notice is issued by the District Court, Delhi, and the Public Hearing Officer, Delhi.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER, DELHI
OLD ST. STEPHEN'S COLLEGE BUILDING, KASHMERE GATE, DELHI-110006
Helpline No. 1800-111-400 and 1950
www.ceodelhi.gov.in
ELECTORS VERIFICATION PROGRAMME
PUBLIC NOTICE
This is for information of the General Public that on the directions of Election Commission of India, an Elector Verification Programme (EVP) will start from 01.09.2019. All the Electors the NCT of Delhi are requested to come forward and verify their details and upload copy of one of the following documents:-
(i) Indian Passport
(ii) Driving License
(iii) Aadhaar Card
(iv) Ration Card
(v) Identity Card for Government/Semi-Government officials
(vi) Bank Passbook
(vii) Farmer's Identity Card
(viii) PAN Card
(ix) Smart Card issued by RGI under NPR and
(x) Latest water/telephone/electricity/gas connection bill for that address either in the name of the applicant or that of his/her immediate relation like parents etc.
The Elector can verify details of themselves & their family members using following options:-
1. Online method:
a) By Registering on NVSP(www.nvsp.in) with their EPIC No, Mobile No. & Email ID
b) By Downloading Voter Helpline App from Google Play Store.
2. Offline method:
a) By visiting Common Service Centres
b) By visiting Voter Centres (List of CSCs & Voter Centres available at www.ceodelhi.gov.in)
Through EVP all Electors can verify & correct their details. If details need any correction please fill in form-8 being generated automatically. They can also tag family members residing at same address to ensure one polling station for entire family.
They may enroll left out eligible members of the family in electoral roll and also get the names of family members who have permanently shifted or have expired deleted from electoral roll. Fill the details of family members aged between 16 and 18 years.
All electors of Delhi are invited to participate in EVP to ensure error free Electoral Roll and make it a success.
PwD voters may call "1950" seeking facilitation under the EVP
NO VOTER TO BE LEFT BEHIND
Sd/ Special CEO, Delhi
DIP/Shabdarth/600/19-20

Gurugram hospital treats obesity with new procedure

It is the first in north India to introduce Endoscopic Sleeve Gastroplasty

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GURUGRAM
Obesity has become one the biggest epidemics in India over the years, with the problem acquiring serious proportions especially in metro cities.
Till now, the most common treatment for obesity worldwide is Laparoscopic Sleeve Gastrectomy, which has, however, certain limitations. But obesity can now also be treated with a new endoscopic, non-invasive procedure, Endoscopic Sleeve Gastroplasty (ESG). And, for the first time, the procedure is available in



KAPIL JAMWAL
Head of gastroenterology unit, Artemis Centre of Excellence for Digestive and Liver Diseases

ESG is a procedure in which a flexible tube with endoscopic suturing device is inserted into the stomach through the mouth and fat is taken out
Introduce ESG, the newer and revolutionary procedure to treat obesity, claimed a press statement issued by the hospital.
Jatin (name changed), a 34-year-old man from Rewari, who had obstructive sleep apnea and hypertension, was the first patient to undergo the procedure at the hospital recently. He was discharged within 48 hours.
Kapil Jamwal, head of gastroenterology unit, Artemis Centre of Excellence for Digestive and Liver Diseases, said: "ESG is a procedure in which a flexible tube with endoscopic suturing device at-

tached is inserted into the stomach through the mouth and fat is taken out. With no operative complications involved, the process is cost-effective. The process takes approximately 90 minutes with no anaesthesia required. Most patients are discharged the same day.
The endoscopic device reduces the size of the stomach without surgery. Apprehensions regarding cuts, surgeries and scars are no more involved in the treatment." The effect can be noticed over 6 months to one year and the patient loses around 60-80% of the excessive body weight.

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF GREATER MUMBAI
B.Y.L. NAIR CH. HOSPITAL, MUMBAI-CENTRAL, MUMBAI - 400 008.
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
NO. NTD/398 DATED 28.08.2019
Short E-Tender Notice
Department: B.Y.L. Nair Ch. Hospital
Sub-ject: 1. Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Portable Reverse Osmosis Plant - 02 Nos. for Nephrology Dept. of B.Y.L. Nair Ch. Hospital along with standard accessories and 5 Years CMC NTD/Neph/III/767 (Bid No. 7100156686)
2. Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Water Treatment Plant - 01 No. for Nephrology Dept. of B.Y.L. Nair Ch. Hospital along with standard accessories and 5 Years CMC NTD/Neph/IV/768 (Bid No. 7100156688)
3. Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Mobile Digital Radiography Unit - 01 No. for Pulm. Medicine Dept. of B.Y.L. Nair Ch. Hospital along with standard accessories and 5 Years CMC NTD/Pulm/IV/812 (Bid No. 7100156689)
4. Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Complete Laparoscopic HD Set - 01 No. for Ped. Surgery Dept. of B.Y.L. Nair Ch. Hospital along with standard accessories and 5 Years CMC NTD/Ped.Surg./II/718. (BidNo.7100156692)
5. Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Flexible Ureteroscope- 02 Nos. for Urology Dept. of B.Y.L. Nair Ch. Hospital along with standard accessories and 5 Years CMC NTD/Uro/IV/644 (Bid No. 7100156693)
6. Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 3 Chip Digital HD Camera with Medical Grade Camera - 01 No. for Urology Dept. of B.Y.L. Nair Ch. Hospital along with standard accessories and 5 Years CMC NTD/Uro/III/707 (Bid No. 7100156694)
7. Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of High Speed Refrigerated Centrifuge - 01 No. for Clinical Pharmacology Dept. of B.Y.L. Nair Ch. Hospital along with standard accessories and 5 Years CMC. NTD/CP/IV/648 (Bid No. 7100156696)
8. Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Real Time PCR - 01 No. for Clinical Pharmacology Dept. of B.Y.L. Nair Ch. Hospital along with standard accessories and 5 Years CMC NTD/CP/II/603 (Bid No. 7100156697)
9. Supply, Installation Testing & Commissioning of Fibreoptic Ureterorenoscope (6/7.5 Fr) - 04 Nos. for Urology Dept. of B.Y.L. Nair Ch. Hospital along with standard accessories and 5 Years CMC NTD/Uro/II/831 (Bid No. 7100156777)
10. Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Flexible Ureterorenoscope - 01 No. for Ped. Surgery Dept. of B.Y.L. Nair Ch. Hospital along with standard accessories and 5 Years CMC NTD/Ped.Surg./I/830 (Bid No. 7100156773)
11. Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Medical Thoroscope (Semi Rigid) - 01 No. for Pulm. Medicine Dept. of B.Y.L. Nair Ch. Hospital along with standard accessories and 5 Years AMC NTD/Pul.Med/III/828 (Bid No. 7100156779)
12. Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Electrosurgical Unit with APC Facility - 01 No. for Gastroenterology Dept. of B.Y.L. Nair Ch. Hospital along with standard accessories and 5 Years CMC NTD/Gast/II/827 (Bid No. 7100156774)
13. Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Capsule Endoscopy System - 25 Nos. for Gastroenterology Dept. of B.Y.L. Nair Ch. Hospital along with standard accessories and 5 Years CMC NTD/GE/II/826 (Bid No. 7100156780)
14. Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Horizontal Cylindrical High Speed Steam Sterilizer - 01 No. for Neurosurgery Dept. of B.Y.L. Nair Ch. Hospital along with standard accessories and 5 Years CMC NTD/Neuro/II/835 (Bid No. 7100156796)
15. Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Operating Cystourethroscope - 01 No. for Ped. Surgery Dept. of B.Y.L. Nair Ch. Hospital along with standard accessories and 5 Years CMC NTD/Ped.Surg/IV/829 (Bid No. 7100156910)
16. Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Vertical Autolave - 01 No. for Microbiology Dept. of B.Y.L. Nair Ch. Hospital along with standard accessories and 5 Years CMC NTD/Micro/I/814 (Bid No. 7100150016)
17. Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Horizontal Autolave - 01 No. for Microbiology Dept. of B.Y.L. Nair Ch. Hospital along with standard accessories and 5 Years CMC NTD/Micro/II/815 (Bid No. 7100150018)
Sale of Tender: http://portal.mcgm.gov.in
1) Mr. Naresh Naik (Tender Dept) .
Tel No. 022-23027116
E-mail ID : hc.tender.nair@gmail.com
Sd/- Dean
B.Y.L. Nair Ch. Hospital
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A ND-NDE

Chinmayanand case: student’s parents headed for Delhi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SHAHJAHANPUR

Following the Supreme Court directions, a Delhi Police team arrived here on Saturday to take the parents of a law student, who was allegedly sexually harassed by a BJP leader, to meet her in the national capital.

The woman, a student of a college here run by BJP leader Swami Chinmayanand’s ashram, had been missing for six days after uploading a video on social media, alleging that “a senior leader of the sant community” was harassing her.

She did not name Mr. Chinmayanand, a former Union Minister. But in a police complaint, her father accused Mr. Chinmayanand of sexually harassing his daughter.

The Supreme Court took cognisance of the matter on August 29 after a group of lawyers wrote to Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi about it.

“The Delhi Police team which arrived here gave us a copy of the Supreme Court order before taking us with them to Delhi to meet our daughter,” the father of the law student said. Besides the parents, two younger siblings of the woman are on their way to Delhi.

A team of two sub-inspectors, including a lady officer, and four other policemen will be accompanying the post-graduate student’s family to Delhi.

Court summons man in Unnao frame-up case

CBI had named Sharadveer Singh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Saturday summoned another person for allegedly conspiring to frame Unnao rape survivor’s father in a case of illegal firearms possession after taking cognisance of a supplementary charge sheet filed by the CBI.

District Judge Dharmesh Sharma directed Sharadveer Singh to appear before it on September 5.

The court had earlier framed charges against expelled BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar, his brother Atul Sengar, three former U.P. policemen and five others for allegedly framing the rape survivor’s father in an illegal arms possession case.

False documents

The court noted on Saturday that Singh was part of the alleged conspiracy to frame the rape survivor’s father by planting arms and for falsely implicating him by creating false documents.

The CBI named Singh for offences under sections 120B (criminal conspiracy), 166 (public servant disobeying law, with intent to cause injury to any person), 167 (public servant framing an incorrect document), 193 (false evidence), 201 (disappearance of evidence) and 218 (public servant framing incorrect record) of the Indian Penal



Kuldeep Singh Sengar. • FILE PHOTO

Code and relevant sections of the Arms Act.

The court had earlier also framed all the accused for allegedly murdering the rape survivor’s father while in judicial custody.

The counsel of the rape survivor and her mother, advocate Dharmendra Kumar Mishra, had earlier told the court that there were lapses in the CBI investigation and further probe was required to bring forth the role of others involved in the alleged conspiracy.

The CBI had told the court that further investigation was going on and it may come up with a supplementary charge sheet in the case.

The woman was allegedly raped by Sengar in 2017 when she was a minor. The court had also framed the MLA in the rape case.

The rape survivor’s father was arrested on April 3, 2018, and died in judicial custody on April 9, 2018.

A mukhiya who calls the shots with a pistol

Popular as ‘Revolver Rani’ and ‘Lady Singham’, Abha Devi spells terror for troublemakers in her panchayat

AMARNATH TEWARY
ALAMPUR GONPURA

Sitting in a newly constructed panchayat bhawan in Alampur Gonpura village on a sweltering Saturday morning, mukhiya (panchayat head) Abha Devi wipes the beads of sweat on her forehead as she listens to the grievances of villagers crowding the room.

Next to her chair, there’s a pistol tucked away in a holster kept on the table. Suddenly she gets a call on her mobile phone and picks up the pistol. She pushes the weapon down the waist of her bright red sari and rushes out taking long strides.

Prompt action

Her car stops a few yards from the door of a villager, Munna Goswami, who had complained to her about some village boys teasing his young daughter. The local police too had advised Mr. Goswami to seek Ms. Devi’s help to sort out the problem.

Ms. Devi asks for the family details of the boys, makes calls to their parents and asks them to mend the ways of their wards or she will take care of them “in her own way”. Immediately, she is assured that it would not happen again.

Ms. Devi, 48, is a real terror for goons and criminals in her panchayat under Phulwari Sharif block of Patna district, say villagers. She is possibly the only woman mukhiya in Bihar who moves with a pistol clung to her waist.

Alampur Gonpura panchayat is a cluster of 13 villages



Alampur Gonpura mukhiya Abha Devi (in red sari) interacting with villagers outside the panchayat bhawan. • RANJEET KUMAR

es and Ms. Devi has been elected mukhiya for two consecutive terms – in 2011 and 2016.

Happy mother at home

At her home in Babhanpura village, the mother of four can easily pass off as a quiet, affectionate and humble lower middle-class housewife, but outside she spells terror for troublemakers. Of late, she is known by the sobriquet ‘Revolver Rani’ and ‘Lady Singham’ in her panchayat and surrounding areas.

“The outside world is quite different from home... I have to assert authority to get things done for the welfare of villagers and keep criminals and goons away,” she says.

Wearing henna, bangles and rings in her right hand, Ms. Devi recalls how once she was fired upon by goons, and attacked several times thereafter.

“In 2015, some goons fired six rounds at me in the village but somehow I escaped

unhurt. I challenged them unarmed while making phone calls to the police. They ran away after a while,” she says, sitting on a cot in the verandah of her home. Her husband Ram Ayodhya Sharma, a few of her relatives and villagers are sitting behind her on plastic chairs.

“In 2016, I got an arms licence and bought this pistol made in an ordinance factory for ₹1.36 lakh,” she says. “Since then it’s been my friend.”

On people calling her ‘Revolver Rani’ and ‘Lady Singham’, she says she has no problem as long as it “spells terror among goons and criminals”.

Brave and confident

But does she know how to use the pistol? “Yes, before buying it, I practised on my husband’s pistol,” she says while declogging the pistol with her finger. “Now, I can shoot faster than my husband and others,” she quips as her husband smiles.

On December 2, 2017,

communal tension flared up in Lahiyarchak village in her panchayat. Ms. Devi says she rushed to the village on a two-wheeler driven by her daughter at night. “I flashed my pistol and the troublemakers fled immediately... a major communal incident was averted,” she says.

In 2013, a similar communal clash had erupted at Gonpura village dargah and Ms. Devi got hit with a stick while trying to control the situation. “At that time I did not have the pistol. It [the pistol] gives me extra confidence and courage to handle such situations,” she says.

Ms. Devi says she has chased away harassers from villages under her panchayat a number of times. Sonam Kumari, a computer operator at the panchayat bhawan, says she was teased by some youth at the auto-stand a few months ago and the next day, Ms. Devi reached the spot and chased the men with her pistol in her hand. “They never teased me again. We feel confident even at odd hours because of our armed mukhiya,” says Ms. Sonam.

Development works

Alampur Gonpura panchayat has 2,200 Dalits, 2,500 Extremely Backward Caste members, 1,700 Yadavs, 700 Muslims and 600 upper caste voters. And the list of development works carried out by Ms. Devi for her panchayat is long. “From high school to intermediate college, roads and drains to emergency help to poor families, she has done every-

ing for us,” say villagers Man-su Das, Jagdish Paswan, Sohan Paswan and Lalita Devi in one voice.

Her immediate aim is to get the panchayat bhawan and the Intermediate College fortified with a boundary wall and also to construct a community hall for women. “I need to free these constructions from encroachers,” says Ms. Devi.

Women empowerment

Almost 70% of her panchayat is open defecation-free. “Soon, our panchayat will be declared 100% ODF,” she says, her deputy Ranjay Kumar nodding in agreement.

She also takes care of a leprosy centre run by a missionary in her panchayat. Many a time she eats her lunch at the local government school along with children to check the quality of midday meal served to them. “What else do we need,” asks villager Guari Das.

Recently, Ms. Devi was invited to a law college in Patna to address students on women empowerment. In 2012, she was invited to Delhi and later to West Bengal for “appreciation and recognition” of her work as a panchayat head.

“I studied till intermediate level but I know women empowerment is the only way our society can grow,” she says.

Does she aim to become an MLA or MP? “No way, I’m happy serving people of my panchayat with whatever sobriquets they have given me,” she smiles.

Naveen launches schemes for welfare of urban population

‘Govt. plans to make all areas garbage-free within a year’

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BHUBANESWAR

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched a number of schemes for the welfare of the State’s urban population on the occasion of local self-government day on Saturday.

Addressing the officials and people gathered at Bhubaneswar, Puri and Berhampur through video-conferencing from the Lok Seva Bhavan here, Mr. Patnaik said that his government was taking all possible measures to make urban areas in the State garbage-free within a year.

Ward offices

Mr. Patnaik opened offices in all the wards of the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation.

He said that the process has started for opening of similar offices in all the 2,035 wards in the urban areas.

The Chief Minister also laid foundation for establish-



Naveen Patnaik releasing a handbook at Lok Seva Bhawan in Bhubaneswar on Saturday. • BISWARANJAN ROUT

ment of 342 micro composite centres for production of organic manure in 114 urban local bodies and 40 solid waste treatment plants in 20 ULBs in the State.

Mr. Patnaik also launched a scheme to give approval to building plans within 48 hours in Bhubaneswar. Such facilities will be extended to other cities in the State.

Stating that the building plan approval scheme was implemented as per the 5T initiative of the State government to achieve transforma-

tion goals through teamwork, transparency and technology enablers in a time-bound manner, Mr. Patnaik thanked the officials for making this possible within a month.

Financial assistance

The Chief Minister also launched the online distribution of financial assistance of ₹10,000 each among the small businessmen affected by Cyclone Fani in Puri district in May this year.

‘No Odisha policeman found guilty of rights violation, corruption’

976 allegations were received between 2014 and 2019: PHQ

STAFF REPORTER
BHUBANESWAR

At a time when the Odisha Police is getting ready to be rated by complainants and victims of crimes, none of its 976 police inspectors facing human rights violation and corruption allegations has been found guilty in the last five years.

In response to an RTI application, the State police headquarters acknowledged that 976 such allegations had been received against inspectors and reserve inspectors between 2014 and 2019. Human rights activist Biswapriya Kanungo had submitted RTI applications seeking information on such allegations and action taken on them.

“We have been sending all allegations to the district Senior Superintendent of Police as well as Deputy Com-

It indicates as if all allegations against police officers were false

BISWAPRIYA KANUNGO
Human Rights activist

missioner for submission of inquiry and action taken reports. As many as 574 inquiry reports have been received at the HQ,” said the PHQ Public Information Officer.

No response

“No allegation or complaint against police inspectors has been substantiated or established. No administrative or penal action has been taken against any inspector,” informed the PIO.

In case of the remaining 402 cases, the PIO did not say anything.

Similarly, 102 allegations were received against Assis-

tant Commissioner of Police and Deputy Superintendent of Police during the same period. But, the PHQ again kept mum.

In case of allegations of corruption against serving IPS officers in Odisha, the Vigilance Department refused to divulge anything.

“The State government specifies that nothing contained in the Act shall apply to General Administration (Vigilance), Department and its organisation,” said Vigilance Department PIO.

“The piece of information is disturbing. It indicates as if all allegations against police officers were false. We believe that allegations were thrown to dustbins and no proper inquiry was held. The much-talked-about transparency and accountability has lost its meaning,” said Mr. Kanungo.

झारखण्ड सरकार
उद्योग विभाग

सूचना

एतद द्वारा सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि Jharkhand Rural Industries Development Policy 2019 (Draft) का प्रारूप विभागीय वेबसाईट www.advantage.jharkhand.gov.in पर upload कर दिया गया है।

सभी औद्योगिक संगठनों/प्रबुद्ध नागरिकों से अनुरोध है कि वे Jharkhand Rural Industries Development Policy 2019 के प्रारूप पर अपना बहुमूल्य सुझाव/मंतव्य दिनांक 06.09.2019 तक उक्त वेबसाईट के Policy Feedback Section में अथवा ईमेल singlewindow-jh@gov.in पर उपलब्ध करा सकते हैं।

सचिव उद्योग

जिसे अब तक ना समझे, वो कहानी हूँ मैं, मुझे बर्बाद मत करो पानी हूँ मैं।

पुलिस अधीक्षक, का कार्यालय,
पश्चिमी सिंहभूम, चाईबासा

फिरार प्राथमिकी अभियुक्त जोड़का लागुरी के विरुद्ध सूचना हेतु

सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है, कि पश्चिमी सिंहभूम चाईबासा टोन्टो था0का0सं0 14/16, दिनांक-13.06.16 धारा 302/120(बी)/34 भा0द0वि0 के नामजद फिरार प्राथमिकी अभियुक्त-जोड़का लागुरी, पे0 जुरिया लागुरी, याम सालीकुटी, थाना टोन्टो जिला पश्चिमी सिंहभूम, चाईबासा के विरुद्ध फिरार दिखाते हुए आरोप पत्र समर्पित किया गया है। इनके बारे में कोई भी व्यक्ति निम्नलिखित पदाधिकारी को सूचना दे सकते है, सूचना दाता का नाम-पता गुप्त रखा जाएगा एवं उचित पुरस्कार से पुरस्कृत किया जाएगा।

पुलिस अधीक्षक, पश्चिमी सिंहभूम, चाईबासा-9431706451, 8294010500, अनुमंडल पुलिस पदाधिकारी, जगन्नाथपुर-9661179930 पुलिस निरीक्षक, झींकपानी अंचल-94317706461 थाना प्रमारी, टोन्टो-9801033766 जिला नियंत्रण कक्ष, चाईबासा-0658-259911, 255164 पुलिस-निर्गण कक्ष, रॉंची-6051-2400607, 2400608 पुलिस अधीक्षक, पश्चिमी सिंहभूम, चाईबासा

PR 215735 (West Singhbhum)19-20*D

JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

3rd Floor, Pragati Sadan (RRDA Building) Kutchery Chowk, Ranchi-834001, Jharkhand CIN: U45200JH2013SGC001752

PR Ref: 214067
NIT No.: JUIDCO/PMAY/Vertical-III/2019/283
Tender ID: 2019 UDD 40809.1
Project Name: Construction (including structural design) of 1288 Dwelling Units in 04 number of G+8 blocks (04 Blocks with 322 Dwelling Units each) at Birsanagar, Jamshedpur under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) [Package IX].

Corrigendum – 2

Sl. No.	Clause No./ Reference No.	As in RFPO Document	AMENDMENTS
1.	Notice Inviting Tender	1. Last Date & Time for submission of online bid (Bid Due Date) – 31.08.2019 up to 1700 Hrs 2. Last Date & Time for submission of tender fee & EMD – 03.09.2019 up to 1700 Hrs 3. Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bids – 03.09.2019 at 1730 Hrs	1. Last Date & Time for submission of online bid (Bid Due Date) – 11.09.2019 up to 1700 Hrs 2. Last Date & Time for submission of tender fee & EMD – 12.09.2019 up to 1700 Hrs 3. Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bids – 12.09.2019 at 1730 Hrs

P.R. 215778 Urban Development(19-20-D) बुद्ध – बुद्ध नहीं बरतेंगे तो बुद्ध को तरसेंगे

Project Director (Technical)

Government of Jharkhand
Department of Higher, Technical Education & Skill Development.
Higher Education-cum-State Project Directorate
Yojna Bhawan (Nepal House Campus) Doranda, Ranchi- 834002

Advertisement No:- 39 Recruitment Notice Dated :- 29-08-2019

The Department of Higher, Technical Education & Skill Development intends to recruit professionals on deputation basis for implementation of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyaan (RUSA), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme and Support of Jharkhand State Higher Education Council (JSHEC) for preparation of State Higher Education Plan and Formulation and Monitoring of other activities.

Applications are invited from suitable candidates for rendering services for the positions as detailed and described below:-

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	No. of Post	Mode of recruitment	Qualification & Experience/ Emolument per month
1.	Additional Director	01 (One)	Deputation	Teacher of University/ Officer of State Education Service having 20 y ears of Teaching/Administrative Experiences and having knowledge of RUSA with PB-III 15600-39100 GP 8000

Qualification and Experience Eligibility criteria:- On Deputation

Teacher of University/Officer of state Education service having 20 years of Teaching/Administrative Experiences and having knowledge of RUSA.

Mode of Recruitment:

On the basis of Interview.

Terms of Engagement:

1. For the post mentioned above the deputation period will be of 03 (Three) years from the date of appointment. However, deputation may be extended on the basis of satisfactory performance.

2. During deputation period, salary etc. will be provided by the Department of Higher and Technical Education & Skill Development, Government of Jharkhand.

Mode of Application:

1. Interested candidates may apply in prescribed application format (available on www.rusajharkhand.com) along with all required certificate. The applications could be sent by email to jharkhandrusa@gmail.com or by Registered Post at office address before the last date:- 24-09-2019.

Office Address:- The Director, Higher Education-cum-State Project Directorate(RUSA) Room No- 327, 3rd Floor,Yojna Bhawan (Nepal House Campus), Doranda, Ranchi, Jharkhand- 834002

2. All self-certified supporting documents in terms of qualifications, Work Experience etc. must be attached along with the application.

3. The list of short listed candidates will be uploaded on the website www.rusajharkhand.com.

4. The short listed candidates would be called for personal interview in Ranchi. The date and time shall be communicated through email.

5. No claim shall be admissible in case of transport and logistics.

6. The Department reserves the right to cancel and postpone the recruitment.

बुद्ध – बुद्ध नहीं बरतेंगे तो बुद्ध को तरसेंगे

Sd/-(Director)

P.R. 215834 Higher Education Directorate(19-20-D) Higher Education-cum-State Project Directorate

IN BRIEF



IRCTC to restore service charges on e-tickets

NEW DELHI
The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation will restore service charge for e-tickets at ₹15 a ticket for non-AC classes and ₹30 for AC classes, according to an August 30 order. PTI

T.N. policy on electric vehicles in 3 weeks

COIMBATORE
Tamil Nadu will release a policy on electric vehicles in three weeks, J. Radhakrishnan, Principal Secretary, Transport Department, said on Saturday. Electric vehicles constitute 0.5% of the total vehicles in the State, he said.

Bitcoin scam kingpin beaten to death

DEHRADUN
Abdul Shakoor, kingpin of a bitcoin scam worth ₹485 crore that had its roots in Kerala was beaten to death by five of his associates here, a senior police official said on Saturday. A search was on to nab five more close aides of Shakoor, police said. PTI

Mamata raises Durga Puja dole to ₹25,000

KOLKATA
West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday more than doubled the dole to clubs organising community Durga Puja, increasing it from ₹10,000 to ₹25,000 this year. The decision would cost the exchequer ₹70 crore.

School principal held for 'hushing up' rape case

RAIPUR
Ten days after a class 1 student of a Central school in Raipur was allegedly raped by her three seniors, its principal has been arrested for trying to "hush up" the matter, police said on Saturday. PTI

Switzerland to share bank account info

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Banking details of Indians with accounts in Switzerland will be available to tax authorities here from Sunday as the automatic exchange of information regime kicks off between the two countries. The move is a significant step in the government's fight against black money and the era of "Swiss bank secrecy" will finally be over from September, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said.

Between August 29 and August 30, a Swiss delegation, led by deputy head of the tax division in the State Secretariat for International Finance Nicolas Mario Luscher, called on Revenue Secretary A.B. Pandey, CBDT Chairman P.C. Mody and CBDT Member (Legislation) Akhilesh Ranjan before the regime kicked in, it said.

"India will receive information of the calendar year 2018 in respect of all financial accounts held by Indian residents in Switzerland," the CBDT said in a statement, adding that details for accounts closed in 2018 will also be available.

Monsoon deficit reduced to near zero

However, country is unlikely to have surplus rain, meteorologists say

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

In spite of heavy rains in August, which reduced the 2019 monsoon deficit to nearly zero, meteorologists say that India is unlikely to end the monsoon with surplus rain.

As of August 31, India received 300 mm of rain, 16% more than the 258 mm that's typical for the month. Between June 1 and August 31, India got 709 mm of rainfall, a millimetre shy of the 710 mm that's normal for that period.

A surge of low pressure disturbances in the Bay of

Bengal in July and August was responsible for the active monsoon.

Active monsoon

On July 31, data from the India Meteorological Department (IMD) showed that the country got 28.5 cm of rainfall in July, about 4% more than what was normal for the month. This reduced the seasonal deficit (calculated from June 1 to July 31) from 32.8% on June 30 to 9%, on July 31. As of August 31, that deficit is now down to 0.2%.

However, monsoon has begun to ebb from August 18 and will continue so until



Welcome showers: Students playing during a sudden spell of rain in New Delhi on Saturday. *R.V. MOORTHY

early September, according to Madhavan Rajeevan, Secretary, Union earth sciences ministry. "A low-pressure system is likely to form

gust were focussed on Central and Southern India, which at 418 and 286 mm was 40% and 55% above normal for the month.

El Nino effect

The above average monsoon activity was due to "increased activity" in the Indian Ocean. "The El Nino activity had subsided however we were also seeing an above normal activity in the Indian Ocean. Unlike the Pacific Ocean, the impact of the Indian Ocean isn't as well understood," Mr. Rajeevan noted.

India gets about 17-18 cm of rainfall in September and it is unlikely to be above average because of a slight resurgence of El Nino-like conditions.

Retrieved antiquities go on display at Delhi's Purana Qila

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A collection of antiques that have been retrieved and confiscated over the years went on display at the Purana Qila complex on Saturday, with Culture Minister Prahlad Singh Patel inaugurating the new gallery set up by the Archaeological Survey of India.

The gallery houses 195 antiques that range from the proto-historic to the modern period and include stone and metal sculptures, coins, paintings, ivory and copper artefacts. A total of nine antiquities at the gallery have been retrieved from other countries, an ASI official said.

Among the exhibits is a standing image of Sridevi from the Chola dynasty period that was seized by the United States' Homeland Security from the smuggler



Across centuries: The gallery houses 195 antiquities ranging from the proto-historic to the modern period. *SANDEEP SAXENA

Subhash Kapoor and returned to India during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's trip in 2016. A standing Buddha returned by the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York in 1999 and a marble sculpture of Brahma-Brahmani that was stolen from the open-air museum at Rani-ki-Vav in Gujarat in 2001 and recovered from the UK in 2012 are also on display.

Talking to the media after

At least 13 dead in Dhule factory blaze

Fire triggered big explosions, 72 persons injured

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

At least 13 people were killed and 72 others injured in a fire at a chemicals factory in Dhule on Saturday.

According to the police, the fire started at about 9.30 a.m. in a factory belonging to Chemisynth near Waghad village in Shirpur, Dhule.

"The factory manufactures precursors to chemicals that are used in the pharmaceutical fields and then provides the precursors to various pharma companies in the State," said Inspector Shivaji Budhwant of the Shirpur City police station.

"The fire was followed by several massive explosions. While the fire itself took

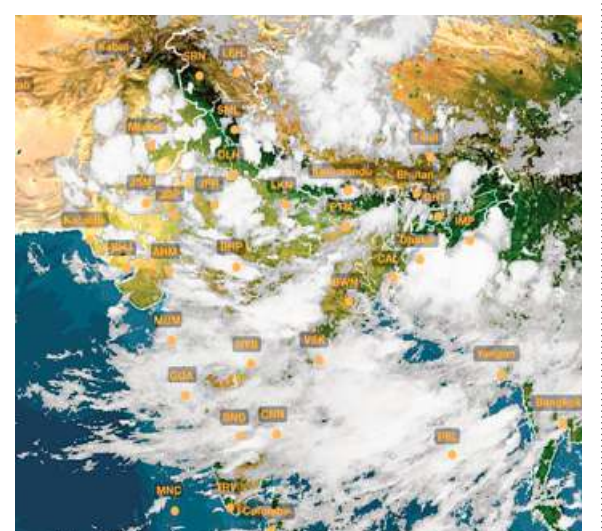


The fire was followed by several massive explosions at the factory. *PTI

around two-and-a-half hours to bring under control, the subsequent search and rescue operation took the better part of the day," he added.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis said in a statement, "State Disaster teams (SDRF) have reached too and now fire is under control. We have announced ₹5 lakh to the kin of deceased."

WEATHER WATCH
RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Heavy to very heavy rainfall very likely at isolated places over Odisha, coastal Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Rajasthan, west Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha, Chhattisgarh, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Nagaland, Manipur, central Maharashtra, Konkarn and Goa. Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning likely over Bihar, Jharkhand and Gangetic West Bengal.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN				
Agartala	37.0	.....	29.0	Kozhikode	.....	34.8	.....	30.0	.....	24.0
Ahmedabad	27.0	.....	35.0	Kurnool	.....	33.0	.....	25.0		
Aizawl	7.4	.....	29.0	Lucknow	.....	36.0	.....	28.0		
Allahabad	36.0	.....	28.0	Madurai	.....	0.3	.....	40.0	.....	26.0
Bangaluru	28.0	.....	20.0	Mangaluru	.....	25.4	.....	29.0	.....	23.0
Bhopal	0.5	.....	30.0	Mumbai	.....	12.7	.....	30.0	.....	24.0
Bhubaneswar	2.5	.....	34.0	Mysuru	.....	29.0	.....	19.0		
Chandigarh	35.0	.....	27.0	New Delhi	.....	37.0	.....	29.0		
Chennai	36.0	.....	27.0	Patna	.....	36.0	.....	28.0		
Coimbatore	33.0	.....	22.0	Port Blair	.....	130.5	.....	30.0	.....	23.0
Dehradun	24.2	.....	32.0	Puducherry	.....	37.0	.....	25.0		
Gangtok	92.0	.....	22.0	Pune	.....	1.4	.....	27.0	.....	23.0
Goa	12.7	.....	29.0	Raipur	.....	0.2	.....	31.0	.....	25.0
Guwahati	6.7	.....	35.0	Ranchi	.....	35.0	.....	33.0	.....	24.0
Hubballi	26.0	.....	22.0	Shillong	.....	27.0	.....	18.0		
Hyderabad	5.8	.....	35.0	Shimla	.....	26.0	.....	17.0		
Imphal	33.0	.....	22.0	Srinagar	.....	28.0	.....	16.0		
Jaipur	34.0	.....	27.0	Thiruvananthapuram	.....	1.8	.....	31.0	.....	24.0
Kochi	11.8	.....	30.0	Tiruchi	.....	39.0	.....	27.0		
Kohima	8.4	.....	32.0	Vijayawada	.....	148.0	.....	32.0	.....	24.0
Kolkata	34.0	.....	27.0	Visakhapatnam	.....	2.8	.....	32.0	.....	27.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO ₂	NO ₂	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE	Yesterday
Ahmedabad	57	56	40	63	109	■	
Bangaluru	11	55	87	118	118	■	In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Loni Dehat, Uttar Pradesh, recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 199 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Haldia, West Bengal recorded a healthy AQI score of 24.
Chennai	12	13	41	30	45	■	
Delhi	7	53	46	89	234	■	
Hyderabad	30	29	15	39	46	■	
Kolkata	8	20	9	51	51	■	
Lucknow	6	34	51	123	123	■	
Mumbai	15	18	21	31	71	■	
Pune	74	8	67	35	35	■	
Visakhapatnam	1	1	1	1	1	■	

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO₂: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Prof. gets notice for remark on deity

Allahabad varsity faculty fears attack

OMAR RASHID
LUCKNOW

A Dalit Assistant Professor in Allahabad University on Saturday said he feared he could be lynched by a mob after an old video showing him making controversial remarks about a Hindu deity was widely circulated on campus.

The university's administration has served Vikram Harijan, an Assistant Professor in the Medieval and Ancient History department, a show-cause notice following a complaint by a group of students who claimed they had been offended by Mr. Harijan's remarks.

Mr. Harijan found himself in trouble after a research scholar, Ranjeet Saroj, on August 20 uploaded on YouTube a video showing the faculty member making controversial comments on a Hindu deity. Following the circulation of the video, a delegation of students led by Ashwani Kumar Maurya, joint secretary of the ABVP (Kashi Pranth) wrote to the university's vice-chancellor on August 27 demanding action against Mr. Harijan. They contended that Mr.

Harijan's "anti-dharma" utterances had "hurt religious sentiments" of the public. Mr. Maurya also lodged a police complaint against the faculty member at the Coloneganj police station.

Asserting that he had expressed regret for his comments, if they had hurt anyone's sentiments, Mr. Harijan told *The Hindu*, that the video being circulated was, however, at least two years old.

'To promote rationality'

The video, which shows the faculty member narrating how as a sixth-standard student he had insulted a Hindu deity but faced no backlash from the deity to push back, his argument against religion and fears related to it, had been shot at a private event at a hostel in Prayagraj on April 14, 2017, on the birth anniversary of Bhimrao Ambedkar.

"My purpose was to say that our children should move forward on the basis of education, hard work and rationality, not to rely on destiny or fear of god," he explained. "Faith is the path to superstition," he added.

Lalu's health condition not stable

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
RANCHI

The condition of jailed Rashtriya Janata Dal chief Lalu Prasad is not stable as his kidneys are not functioning properly and blood sugar and blood pressure are fluctuating, a senior doctor attending to him said on Saturday.

Mr. Prasad, 71, is undergoing treatment at the Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences in Ranchi. He has been in jail since 2017 after his conviction in fodder scam cases.

"His kidneys are not functioning properly. The GFR (glomerular filtration rate) has dropped. His blood sugar and blood pressure are also fluctuating," Dr. Umesh Prasad, one of the attending doctors, told PTI.

"His diet has also decreased compared with earlier. We are giving him medicines now," he said.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH MULTIPLE DISABILITIES (Divyangjan) (NIEPMD)
(ACCREDITED BY NACD)
(Dept of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, GOI)
ECR, Muthukadu, Kovilam Post, Chennai 600 112, Tamil Nadu.
Fax: 044-27472388 | Tel: 044-27472104, 27472113, 27472046 | T8 Free No: 18004290345
Website: www.niepmdd.in Email: niepmdd@gmail.com

VACANCY NOTIFICATION:
CONSULTANT (TEMPORARY) No.28/2019

NIEPMD invites eligible candidates for a walk-in selection process on **18.09.2019 at 11.00 AM** for the position of **Hindi Typist (Consultant)** on temporary contractual basis. For detailed instructions, essential Qualification, desirable qualification, experience, etc., visit website www.niepmdd.tn.nic.in. **DIRECTOR**

ANDHRA PRADESH POWER DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED
e-PROCUREMENT NOTIFICATION
e-Tender Notice No: 610000563

APPDCL invites Bids for "Tender document for transportation of 3.675 Million Tons per annum of beneficiated coal from different washeries at Talcher area out lets (Rail cum sidings at Talcher area) to SDSTPS via Paradip and Krishnapatnam Ports by Rail cum Sea cum Conveyor/Road for a period of Two years on Reverse Auction basis."

Schedule available : From 18:00 Hrs on 31.08.2019
Last date for uploading of bids online : up to 14:00 Hrs on 24.09.2019
Opening of Bids : after 16:00 Hrs on 24.09.2019

For further details, please visit website: www.apgenco.gov.in (Notification/ Tender notification/SDSTPS)
The documents can be downloaded from the website of <https://tender.apgenco.gov.in>

CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER/APPDCL

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
E-Tender Notice for the supply of stores No.14/2019 dt. 29/08/2019

Southern Railway has implemented an e-system. All advertised tenders will be dealt through e-procurement system only. No manual offer/postal offer will be entertained. These tenders can be accessed under the link www.irops.gov.in→SR→COS

Sl. No	E-Tender No.	Description	Tender Closing date & time
1	82/19/6233/EOT	POWER SUPPLY ARRANGEMENT	20.09.2019 @ 14.30 Hrs
2	82/19/6108/EOT	MAIN LED SIGNALS	26.09.2019 @ 14.30 Hrs

Railway reserves the right to issue any corrigendum to the tenders
Important Notice to Vendors: e-procurement is in the link www.irops.gov.in
PRINCIPAL CHIEF MATERIALS MANAGER

जवाहरलाल स्नातकोत्तर आयुर्विज्ञान शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान
JAWAHAR INSTITUTE OF POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH (JIPMER)
(स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार के अधीन राष्ट्रीय मस्तिष्क का संस्थान), पंचवटी नगर, पुदुच्चेरी
(An Institute of National Importance under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare), Dhanvantari Nagar, Puducherry - 605 006
Phone: 0413 - 2298022 Website: www.jipmer.puducherry.gov.in Fax: 0413 - 2227067 - 2227235
No.JOSW/4(1)/2019 Date: 31.08.2019

NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

NAME OF WORK : "Outsourcing of 24/7 Security services, including Quick Response Team, Intelligence Services, Emergency Services & other security related services (manpower, vehicle, gadgets and other essential items)" Sealed Expressions of Interest (EOI) (i.e., Technical bid and Financial bid) in conformity with detailed EOI call notice are invited from service provider Agencies/ Firms having valid Registration Certificate, including registration with the Regional Labour Commissioner, EPF/ESI Registration, Service Tax Registration and PAN Card etc., for Outsourcing of 24/7 Security Services, including Quick Response Team, Intelligence Services, Emergency Services and other Security related services including Manpower, Vehicle, Gadgets, Supervisory Staff, Protective Items etc., in the campus of JIPMER, Puducherry & Karaikal. For downloading full text of the EOI and other terms and conditions, please visit www.jipmer.edu.in

DEPUTY DIRECTOR (ADMN.), JIPMER

UNIVERSITY OF MADRAS
ADMISSION NOTIFICATION

The University is offering M.L. Degree course in the following branches under private study (Non-semester) for the academic year 2019-2020 through English medium only in the Department of Legal Studies.

- Br-I- International Law and Constitutional Law
- Br-III- Criminal Law
- Br-V- Intellectual Property Law
- Br-VI- Human Rights and Environmental Law
- Br-VII- Labour and Administrative Law

ELIGIBILITY: A pass in B.L / L.L.B., Degree from a recognized University under regular pattern of study i.e. 10+2+3 or 11+1+3+3 (in case of three years B.L / L.L.B) or 10+2+5 (in case of Five years B.L / L.L.B)

Application can be downloaded from the University website at www.unom.ac.in. The cost of application is Rs.236/- inclusive of GST (Rs.118/- inclusive of GST for SC/ST candidates on production of photo copy of the community certificate) by means of Demand Draft or Online Payment shall be enclosed, failing which the application will be summarily rejected.

Last date for issue / submission of filled in application : 15.10.2019. ☎ (044) 25399473

No : ERC / M.L/ PS / Notification/ 2019-2020. 801, 21.8.2019

REGISTRAR
DIPR/968/Display/2019

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)
E-TENDER NOTICE No.SGCMNTP-2019-4 dt.29.08.19

For and on behalf of The President of India, The Executive Signal and Telecommunication Engineer, Construction and Metropolitan Transport Project, Southern Railway, Ground Floor, GC building, Mc Nichols Road, Chetpet, Chennai-31 invites e-tenders for the following work:

	Name of the work
1	Provision of TPWS trackside equipments for newly commissioned 3 rd and 4 th Lines between Chennai Beach and Korukkupet Stations in Chennai Division
2	Approximate Cash Value
3	Cost of the tender form
4	Earnest Money Deposit
5	Period of Completion
7	Date and time of closing of bidding
8	Date and time of opening of Tender
9	For further details refer Website address

The Executive Signal and Telecommunication Engineer, Construction and Metropolitan Transport Project, Southern Railway, Ground Floor, GC building, Mc. Nichols Road, Chetpet, Chennai-31

Payment of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Tender Document Cost (TDC) in respect of e-tendering shall be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only.

Executive Signal and Telecom Engineer, Construction and Metropolitan Transport Project, Chennai-31

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION, KEONJHAR - 758001**
Ph No.06766-254096, e-Mail:- eephkjr@gmail.com

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement
Invitation For Bids (IFB) / 2019-20 dt.31.08.2019

01. Name of the Work	: 4 Nos. works
02. Estimated Cost	: Rs.102.59 to 280.11 Lakh
03. Period of Completion	: 03 Months
04. Date & Time of Availability of Bid Document in the Portal	: 11 hours of dt.11.09.2019 to 17 hours of dt.03.10.2019
05. Last date / time of receipt of bids in the portal	: 17 hours of dt.03.10.2019
06. Date and Time of opening of bids	: 17 hours of dt. 11.10.2019
07. Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid.	: The Executive Engineer, P.H.Division, Keonjhar - 758001, Odisha Ph.06766-254096 e-Mail : eephkjr@gmail.com

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersordisha.gov.in

Sd/-
**Executive Engineer,
Public Health Division, Keonjhar**

158-C;
13054/11/0008/1920

DEPARTMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY
Ministry of Science & Technology

Indo-U.S. GENOME ENGINEERING / EDITING TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE (GETin) PROGRAM

THIRD CALL FOR PROPOSAL

Acknowledging importance of strategies & techniques in genome modification, as modern day essential tools for research & development, the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Govt. of India along with the Indo-U.S. Science & Technology Forum (IUSSTF) announces fellowship program between Indian Institutes and premier U.S. Universities, in significant areas of Genome Engineering / Editing Technology (GETin).

The program is open to individuals whose research work has an interface with Genome Engineering / Editing Technology studies

PROGRAM MODULE & ELIGIBILITY:	
STUDENT INTERNSHIP <ul style="list-style-type: none">Indian citizens currently pursuing Ph.D. on a full-time basis in various forefront disciplines of biotechnology (agriculture, health sciences, bio-engineering, biomedical, fundamental biology or allied fields) at a public - funded R&D lab / S&T Institute / recognized academic institute / University / College in India.For a period of up to 6 monthsAge: Up to 32 years as on 31 December 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none">For a period of up to 5 weeks to 12 monthsAge: Up to 45 years as on 31 December 2019
OVERSEAS FELLOWSHIP <ul style="list-style-type: none">Indian citizens having Ph.D. in Life Science, Biotechnology, Engineering or Technology, holding a regular position in public funded R&D Lab / S&T Institution / recognized Universities / Colleges in India.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">U.S. Faculty or Foreign Post Docs presently working in U.S. (for at least two years) in a field having an interface with Genome Engineering / Editing Technologies.Applicant should possess Ph.D., M.D, M.S or equivalent degree with outstanding track record as evident through publications and other recognitionsFor a period of 2-3 monthsAge: Up to 60 years as on 31 December 2019
FELLOWSHIP / INTERNSHIP INCLUDES: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Monthly StipendContingency AllowanceAirfareHealth Insurance	

SUBMISSION DEADLINE : 31st October 2019

For proposal Guidelines and format visit: Website: www.iussf.org or write to getin@indoussf.org.

FROM PAGE ONE

Probe ordered into uranium contamination

The APPCB said the UCIL was not complying with the norms for protecting the tailings pond from seepage. It had asked the UCIL to line the pond with a polyethylene layer. The UCIL, instead, lined the pond with clay material with desired thickness as per the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board guidelines.

APPCB Chairman B.S.S. Prasad told journalists that there were apprehensions among the people living in the vicinity of the project

site over the release of slurry into the tailings pond, and the plan to expand it. Speaking to *The Hindu* earlier this week, Mr. Prasad said, “Our reports suggest that there is a steep rise in the levels of sodium and other heavy metals in the groundwater at Tummalapalle and its surrounding areas.”

The report further stated that the uranium concentration in the groundwater was 4,000 ppb (parts per billion) against the AERB permissible limit of 60 ppb.

AAP MLA slams party

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Senior Aam Aadmi Party leader and MLA from Sunam Aman Arora ridiculed the Punjab AAP leadership on Saturday over their remark that the party had lost all hopes of getting justice in the 2015 Bargari sacrilege cases. Hitting out at AAP MLA and Leader of Opposi-

tion in the Punjab Assembly Harpal Singh Cheema, Mr. Arora said that while there is no doubt that the Akali Dal-BJP and the Congress governments had “done nothing” to deliver justice, “it does not mean that AAP, the principal Opposition party in the State, should abandon all hope of delivering justice to the people”.

Now ‘revolving-door’ arrests in Kashmir

1,500 youth have been held for short periods and released to contain street clashes in the Valley

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SOURA

The Jammu and Kashmir police have adopted a novel approach involving “revolving-door arrests” to contain the situation on the streets in the wake of withdrawal of the State’s special status on August 5.

According to data with the police headquarters (PHQ) in Srinagar, around 1,500 youth have been picked up and released under a continuous process across the Kashmir Valley in the past few weeks. This comes amid rising incidents of stone throwing after Id.

Political leaders

According to the official figures, accessed by *The Hindu*, 1,185 people, including the mainstream leaders of the National Conference (NC), Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and Peoples Conference (PC), remain detained since August 5. A total of 3,200 persons were arrested in the first three weeks, the official figures show.



Brief respite: Vehicles seen plying on the streets of Srinagar after restrictions were eased on Saturday. • NISSAR AHMAD

However, 1,500 youth, whom the police rounded up during raids and street scuffles for disturbing the law and order situation in the Valley, were held under the “revolving door mechanism”.

‘Poor space in jails’

“Besides the permanent detentions, scores of youth were detained from a period of one day to two weeks at maximum. Such daily arrests and release from detentions

are a continuous process,” a top police officer told *The Hindu*. The reason for the “revolving door” method, according to the police, was also “poor space in the Valley’s jails”, despite shifting several persons, including detained militants, to Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi.

J&K government spokesperson Rohit Kansal has refused to give out any official figures on detention, saying “there were no centralised figures on arrests and the lo-

cal officers deal with the situation locally”.

Akram Khan (name changed), a resident of Soura, said he was arrested on his way home after evening prayers when clashes broke out in his area in the third week of August.

Daily detentions

Mr. Khan, who returned to Kashmir to set up his own business four years ago, said he is now among dozens of youth in daytime detention,

Committed to Kartarpur corridor: Shah

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said the Modi government was committed to completing the Kartarpur Sahib corridor within the stipulated time.

The assurance of the Home Minister came a day after India and Pakistan held a meeting of the technical committee at Zero Point in Gurdaspur in Punjab on the opening of the corridor, amid fresh tensions between the two countries.

Extending greetings to the Sikh community on the occasion of Parkash Purab of Guru Granth Sahib ji, Mr. Shah hoped that the light of the holy Guru Granth Sahib would continue to guide everyone and provide the strength to serve the nation better.

“I also reiterate the commitment of Modi govt. to complete the work on Kartarpur Sahib Corridor within the time frame,” he tweeted.

Voicing support



Come rain or shine: A Tibetan exile shouting slogans during a rally in New Delhi to extend support to pro-democracy protesters in Hong Kong. • REUTERS

Shah seeks expedited Red Notices

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah urged Interpol to expedite the publication of Red Notices against high-profile economic offenders and terrorists.

Mr. Shah met Interpol Secretary General Jurgen Stock at his North Block office on Saturday.

India’s request to issue a Red Notice against Islamic preacher Zakir Naik, who is wanted in connection with several cases in India, is pending with Interpol.

Mr. Naik is presently in Malaysia.

A Red Notice, issued by Interpol, is a request to law enforcement worldwide to locate and provisionally arrest

a person pending extradition, surrender, or similar legal action.

“The Home Minister expressed concern about the delay in publication of Red Notices and an urgent need for proactive pre-publication consultation for ensuring expeditious publication of Red Notices,” the Home Ministry said in a statement.

“He conveyed that such cooperation enables India to more intensely pursue high profile fugitive economic offenders and terrorists,” it added.

Mr. Shah also proposed that India host Interpol’s General Assembly, in 2022, in New Delhi as part of the nation’s celebrations of the 75th Independence Day.

Russia to showcase 2 copters to Modi

Russian Helicopters plant gears up to manufacture Kamov Ka-226Ts for India

DINAKAR PERI
ULAN UDE (RUSSIA)

Russia will showcase two of its helicopters to Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Eastern Economic Forum (EEF) at Vladivostok in Russia where he will also hold the annual bilateral summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

“A prototype of the Kamov Ka-226T will be showcased to the Indian Prime Minister. It was built by the Kamov Design Bureau in Moscow. One Mi-171A2 passenger helicopter built here for an Indian private helicopter company will also be showcased,” Sergei Solomin, first deputy managing director of the Russian Helicopters (RH) manufacturing plant at Ulan Ude, told a small group of visiting international journalists. The K2-226Ts for India would be manufactured here.

In anticipation of the final contract with India, the plant had started setting up a manufacturing line, and the first Ka-226T was expected to be ready by 2020-end. For the Mi series of helicopters, it typically took nine months from the contract to the first helicopter and then four months, Mr. Solomin said.



A Ka-226T at the MAKS air show in Russia. • DINAKAR PERI

“We will deliver 60 helicopters directly from here and supply kits for 140 more, which will be assembled in India,” he said.

‘Special alloy’

There is colour coding for the parts of various helicopters manufactured here and for the Ka-226T. It is pink that stood out distinctly on one side of a huge hall where work is under way. For the manufacture, aluminium with special additives would be used, Mr. Solomin said. “It’s a special alloy.”

Spread over 275 hectares, including the tarmac and a 3,000 m runway, the Ulan Ude plant was set up in 1939. It currently produces Mi-8,

Mi-171E and Mi-171A2 helicopters. It manufactured 76 helicopters last year and a major expansion is on.

Leonid Belykh, director general of the plant, said the overall investment in the plant in the past five years was over 8 billion roubles and in the next five years they planned to invest over 10 billion roubles.

Both the officials remained non-committal on the time frame for the manufacture for India as the deal is yet to be signed. “It will be determined by the contract itself,” Mr. Belykh said.

The Mi-171A2 was built for Global Vectra Helicorp Limited and was awaiting certification from Indian auth-

orities before it could be delivered but has been since delayed. “We expect the certification by September,” Mr. Belykh said.

While the Ka-226T is an India-specific variant, the Ka-226 is flown by the Russian border security and the coast guard.

Asked as to why Ulan Ude was chosen to manufacture the Ka-226T, Mr. Solomin said it was to meet the specific Indian requirements – design and manufacturing processes should be digitised. The entire manufacturing would be through 3D modelling and there would be no paper drawings, he explained.

Speaking about the deal at the MAKS air show, Viktor N. Kladov, director of International cooperation, Rostec state corporation, said “everything is ready” and the two leaders would give it a push towards conclusion. “Major push will be made. Both technical and commercial talks are already finished. Quite obviously, this will be discussed at Vladivostok,” he said.

(The writer is at MAKS 2019 air show on the invitation of the Russian government)

‘Listen carefully, report back faithfully, and play it by ear’

India’s assistance to the Northern Alliance remains an untold story

V. SUDARSHAN
CHENNAI

India worked closely with Ahmed Shah Massoud, Commander of the Northern Alliance in Afghanistan, after the Taliban took control of the country following the killing of former President Najibullah. Then Indian Ambassador to Tajikistan Bhadraraj Raj Muthu Kumar, who coordinated the military and medical assistance, warns against placing Indian soldiers in Afghanistan as the U.S. looks to withdraw.

Massoud, the Lion of Panjshir, had made his name guerrilla-fighting the Soviets when they occupied Afghanistan for 10 years. The Indian Ambassador sought instructions from New Delhi on what was to be done. The response: “Listen carefully, report back faithfully, and play it by ear.”

Over chai and dry fruits

Massoud maintained a house on Karamova Ulitse in Dushanbe. He had his own staff and Mohammed Saleh Registrani looked after the affairs of his house. It was here that the Indian Ambassador regu-

larly began meeting Ahmed Shah Massoud, discussing, over endless *chai* and dry fruits, the bewilderingly shifting fortunes of the battles in Afghanistan where money was enough to swing fighters.

The Commander did not speak English and Amrullah, who would later go on to become Intelligence Chief, interpreted for him. The Indian Ambassador subsequently had his number two in the mission, Dr. S.A. Qureshi, on hand for interpretation.

At the first meeting, the Commander had dramatically thrown his trademark cap down on the table, and declared, that was all the space he required – the circumference of his headgear – to stand and fight for his country. He put it simply: “I need India’s support.” He then set out a list of items he needed.

What is in it for us? Delhi queried. Mr. Muthu Kumar explained, “He is battling someone we should be battling. When Massoud fights the Taliban, he fights Pakistan.”

Expanding list

The Commander’s wish list kept growing, and when once, New Delhi agreed to send only a fraction of the requirement, Mr. Muthu Kumar sent a message explain-

ing Massoud’s predicament with an Ajit joke: “We have thrown him in liquid oxygen: the liquid won’t let him live and the oxygen won’t allow him to die.”

Jaswant Singh, a former soldier, and then BJP leader, who had become External Affairs Minister, read the cables the first thing. He directly called Mr. Muthu Kumar and gave him a message to deliver to the Commander: “Please assure him that he will have his requirements.”

Short of sending heavy equipment, India provided extensive assistance to the Northern Alliance – uniforms, ordnance, mortars, small armaments, refurbished Kalashnikovs seized in Kashmir, combat and winter clothes, packaged food, medicines, and funds through his brother in London, Wali Massoud. Assistance would be delivered circuitously with the help of other countries who helped this outreach.

Mr. Muthu Kumar does not recall the quantities and the detailed itemisation. The logistics of procurement and delivery was handled by the Military Intelligence wing in New Delhi. The supplies arrived regularly at Dushanbe, and the Tajik customs ensured the smooth transfer to Parkhor, at the border between Tajikistan and north-



Muthu Kumar sitting with a consignment of medicine on an AN-24 turbo-prop aircraft at Dushanbe airport while clearance procedures were on. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ern Afghanistan, where Massoud maintained around 10 helicopters for his war efforts. New Delhi also helped maintain the helicopters with spares and service. Between 1996 and 1999 India gifted two Mi-8 helicopters.

Frontline hospital

The wounded arrived incessantly from the battlefield in helicopters at Parkhor. Those requiring sustained treatment were sent to Delhi via Parkhor and Dushanbe, the visas furnished in double-quick time. Also, at Parkhor, where the embassy had scouted for a hospital, an isolation clinic had been refurbished with two operating theatres, twenty-four beds for the convalescing and an ICU of between six to eight beds, depending on the requirement. Five doctors and twenty-four paramedics ran

the hospital, which also had an OPD for locals. The medical outreach project had been valued at that time at \$7.5 million.

When Ambassador Muthu Kumar wanted to build a helipad right next to the hospital for the convenience of the wounded, New Delhi jokingly admonished him, “Now you are getting carried away!” He found a convenient solution. Parkhor was in the cotton belt and for ginning cotton, they used reinforced concrete slabs seven or eight inches thick and large enough to comfortably land an Mi8. So the medical facility had a helipad as well. Indian officials began flying up to Dushanbe to meet Massoud and also have themselves photographed with him.

The policy grew more substantial when President Ema-

moli Rahmon indicated he would like a technical halt in New Delhi on his way back from Vietnam, on January 22, 1999. Prime Minister Vajpayee invited him for lunch at his residence and ways were discussed to deepen the ties.

New Delhi was interested in an airbase in Aini to maintain forward presence in the area. It had been used by the Russians who maintained Su-25 aircraft, subsonic, heavily armed. After they withdrew, it fell into disuse, and India lengthened the runway, upgraded the airbase, did a ferry run, and flew a flag there too and stationed a Commandant with the rank of a Group Captain with four officers under him. The Aini airbase has no IAF aircraft on ground but is a part of India’s well-equipped training mission in Tajikistan.

It was to the Parkhor medical facility run by India that Massoud was brought when he was assassinated on September 9, 2001. Registrani, who had become a General, called Mr. Muthu Kumar who had been posted to Minsk in Belarus, to say that the Commander had been attacked, and was beyond help.

The date coincided with the diplomat’s wedding anniversary, and he was throwing a dinner; he promptly cancelled the event without as-

signing any reason.

It was days later that Massoud’s death was announced. The first military attaché arrived after the RAW man in the embassy had arrived towards the end of Mr. Muthu Kumar’s tenure. Almost as soon as the first American military boot hit the Afghan soil, the hospital in Parkhor was ordered to be wound up and shifted to Mazar-e-Sharif.

Echoes today

This nearly hidden chapter in New Delhi’s relationship with Afghanistan grows in salience as the talks between Taliban and the Americans veer around to formulating a way forward, combined with the repeated and open American request to India to participate more robustly in the security matrix in Afghanistan.

Barely three months before he died, towards the end of May, Commander Massoud visited New Delhi. He was there for four days, at New Delhi’s invitation. Jaswant Singh records, in his book, *A Call to Honour*, “This had to be a closely guarded visit, as any number of terrorist groups from Afghanistan and Pakistan were vying to take his life.” He noted that, “India’s co-operation with the Northern Alliance is still largely an

untold account. A more complete narration of it has to wait.”

Is there a take-away from India’s experience that is relevant now? Mr. Muthu Kumar quotes Massoud as saying in August 1998, before the U.S. launched cruise missile attacks on Kandahar and elsewhere, “The problem in Afghanistan – more than the Taliban – is the presence of foreign forces. So I am also fighting these forces who are with the Taliban. After the massacre of Iranian diplomats in Mazar-e-Sharif this summer, Iran massed more than 2,50,000 soldiers on our border to punish the Taliban, so I advised the leadership in Iran, do not invade Afghanistan as I am fighting foreign forces, so just give me material assistance to defeat the foreign forces and the Taliban.”

Given his experience, Mr. Muthu Kumar says, “Taking note of Masood’s exchange, my thinking is that we must not commit that gross error of placing Indian boots on Afghan soil. What will Indian troops do? What could we achieve and who will we fight and defend? The leaders of the present government and the Taliban are only two major facets of Afghan politics – they have to resolve their differences for that elusive peace and stability.”

We are not happy with the outcome of the NRC. Many genuine Indians have been excluded and foreigners included. We are taking steps to ensure foreigners are ejected.



RANJEET K. DASS, BJP State president

Every section of Assam, including the BJP, is unhappy with the status of NRC. Because of careless implementation, many genuine Indian citizens will have to unnecessarily face the courts. Congress will provide all help.



GAURAV GOGOI, Congress MP

The figure is unexpected. The government must take steps to deport foreigners but should not bring in the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill again to let millions of Hindu Bangladeshi people in.



PRAFULLA K. MAHANTA, former CM (who headed the anti-foreigners agitation from 1979-85)

I did not want to trigger a humanitarian crisis, and I don't want anyone to be victimised. But constant neglect by the government has made the issue snowball into a major problem. The massive exercise is bound to affect people.



PRADIP KUMAR BHUYAN, 82-year-old behind an NGO's litigation that started the NRC exercise

Many women from other states such as West Bengal have been left out. We should ensure genuine Indians are in the list and propaganda and provocation do not hamper the process of the excluded seeking respite from the courts.



DEBEN BHATTACHARYYA, State CPI(M) secretary

Centre in no hurry for NRC follow-up

Official says sending a large number of people to detention centres is not a 'practical' option

VIJAITA SINGH
NEW DELHI

The Centre is not in a rush to take any decision after the final National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam was published on Saturday as the political leadership decides the next course of action.

A senior government official said there were several options available, but sending a large number of people to detention centres was not "practical".

The Centre and the State government had filed affidavits in the Supreme Court demanding "reverification" of 20% of the names in districts bordering Bangladesh and 10% in other districts. Both requests were turned down.



Make or break: A man submits documents to check if his name is on the NRC, at Pabhokathi village in Morigaon district of Assam on Saturday. **•RITU RAJ KONWAR**

‘Fair and correct’

On Saturday, Assam Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma reiterated that reverification should be allowed by the "Hon'ble apex court for a correct and fair NRC".

The NRC is a Supreme Court-monitored exercise. Mr. Sarma said many names were included in the NRC by "manipulation of legacy data as alleged by many".

"Names of many Indian ci-

tizens who migrated from Bangladesh as refugees prior to 1971 have not been included in the NRC because authorities refused to accept refugee certificates," he said.

The government has clarified that those excluded will get an opportunity to present their case before the Foreigners Tribunals and then in the High Court and the Su-

preme Court.

"Even after legal options are exhausted, it will not be possible to send a large number of people to detention centres. No decision has been taken about the people who will be declared foreigners, maybe they are given work permits... There is no rush, the political leadership has a plan in place," the offi-

cial said. There are six detention centres in Assam, and 10 more are likely to come up.

The previous Lok Sabha had cleared the Citizenship Amendment Bill that seeks to provide citizenship to non-Muslims from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan who came to India before December 31, 2014. There are concerns in the State that

the legislation would render the entire exercise futile as it would pave the way for giving citizenship to illegal Hindu migrants from Bangladesh in Assam who came after March 1971, in violation of the Assam Accord signed in 1985.

While introducing the Bill on January 8, the then Home Minister, Rajnath Singh, said, "Assam alone should not have to bear the entire burden and the beneficiaries of Citizenship Amendment Bill can reside in any State of the country ... The burden of those persecuted migrants will be shared by the whole country."

Refugee status

Present Home Minister Amit Shah made the Centre's stand clear in the Rajya Sabha on July 1 when he said that the government would bring a Bill in Parliament to provide citizenship to "Hindus refugees" left out of the NRC.

Mr. Shah made the remark in response to a statement of Trinamool MP Derek O'Brien that around 23 lakh Bengali Hindus would lose citizenship after the final NRC is published.

Poor implementation has left out many citizens: Cong.

CPI(M) seeks clarity on status and rights of those excluded

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Friday slammed the government for the final National Register of Citizens which had excluded 19 lakh people in Assam saying the "careless" implementation had ended up disenfranchising many genuine citizens.



Gaurav Gogoi

"Every section of Assam is unhappy with the status of NRC. Even BJP Ministers are complaining. Careless implementation that many genuine Indian citizens will have to unnecessarily face the courts. Congress will provide all help. Nation above politics is our motto," Gaurav Gogoi, Congress MP, said said in a tweet.

The party is carefully treading on the issue as it does not want to be seen as standing entirely opposed to the exercise. Adhir Ranjan Chaudhary, Congress floor leader in the Lok Sabha, told presspersons that its concern was limited that "genuine citizens must be protected and included in the NRC list".

The CPI(M) Polit Bureau said here that exclusion of 19 lakh people had "roused legitimate fears" that many of those excluded were genuine citizens. It asked the government to spell out the status and the rights of those excluded. "Till their appeals are heard and the process is completed, the status quo should be maintained with regard to their existing rights and facilities," it said.

By the procedure laid down by the government, those excluded can apply to the designated Foreigners Tribunals within 120 days for their cases to be heard. The CPI(M) questioned the

validity of the tribunals as a body to adjudicate such cases. It said they were not judicial bodies that would consider the merit of the application before deciding to admit it. "The CPI(M) wants the right of appeal to be processed through a judicial mechanism. The Foreigners Tribunals are not adequate for this purpose."

All-party meeting

The Communist party demanded that a meeting of all political parties be called in by the State government to apprise them of the issue and discuss the concerns raised by them.

Till all the loopholes are plugged, the party has demanded that none of the excluded members should be sent to a detention camp. CPI general secretary D. Raja said the BJP had been using it to polarise and communalise Assam and their claims had been falling apart one by one.

"We will have to wait and see how people of Assam will respond to this."

Gurkhas say 1 lakh members of the community excluded

"The number of exclusions has come down from draft NRC"

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

The Bharatiya Gurkha Parishad has said that more than one lakh community members have been excluded from the NRC. The list otherwise is believed to include mostly Bengali-speaking Hindus and Muslims.

BGP State president Nityananda Upadhyay said the figure was arrived at by speaking to members of the local units of the organisation across the State.

The BGP is one of the stakeholders in the cases related to the NRC in the Supreme Court.

"We are waiting for the data to reach us in two or three days. The number of rejected Gurkha people who are bona fide Indian citizens is expected to be more than 1 lakh as on date," he said.



Between the lines: Various communities have come up with complaints about the NRC. **•RITU RAJ KONWAR**

As a whole, the NRC is not on expected lines

NITYANANDA UPADHYAY
Gurkha leader

BGP leader Nanda Kirati Dewan said Gurkhas showed patience throughout the upgrading process.

"The number of exclusions has come down from the draft NRC. Of the one lakh Gurkhas in the reject list, about 20,000 are facing D [doubtful] voter cases, while others have been hit by surname mismatch. The BGP will engage legal and para-legal community members trained to fight Foreigners' Tribunal cases to help those excluded," he added.

on documents, so inclusions have been done legally after multi-layered verification, but the numbers of foreigners traced after cases in the Foreigners' Tribunals will not meet the expected lines that the government narrated. As a whole, the NRC is not on expected lines," Mr. Upadhyay said.

Multi-layered process

The NRC has been based on the historic Assam Accord. It is time to realise that we have been identifying genuine Indian citizens based

Stateless at the stroke of a pen

Divided families wonder what has torn them apart despite same credentials

VIJAITA SINGH
NEW DELHI

Mofizur Rehman, a health officer with the Meghalaya government, took leave from work to attend a hearing at a National Register of Citizens (NRC) centre in Darrang district of Assam in April. Dr. Rehman said he distinctly remembered the day.

"The room was packed. It seemed to be the counter of a cinema hall where a Salman Khan movie had just been released. In that cacophony, an official heard the application my family an I had filed against our exclusion from the draft NRC list... hearing was over in minutes," Dr. Rehman said.

On Saturday, sitting in his office, miles away from home, he found the claim filed by the family of four had been rejected. They were one family among the 19 lakh people excluded from the final NRC published on Saturday.



All-important call: A man calls his family members after checking the NRC in Morigaon on Saturday. **•RITU RAJ KONWAR**

The Constitution gives citizenship, let them play politics

NILANJAN CHANDA
IT professional

'o'. This could have led to our claim being rejected. We are taxpayers, citizens by birth... my uncle's family has been included though he submitted the same legacy data. Among Muslims, even fathers and sons can have different surnames," Dr. Rehman said.

There are several families whose immediate family members have been excluded.

For instance, Sarbari Bhattacharjee, 54, from New Bongaigaon says she submitted documents including her matriculation and marriage certificates, but her name did not appear in the final NRC. "I was born at Baranagar in West Bengal, but I do not have my birth certificate. The West Bengal government should help us with the documents. The name of my husband who retired from a government job last year and my daughter are there," a visibly anxious Ms. Bhattacharjee said.

Nilanjan Chanda, 45, an IT professional from Kolkata,

said his mother Krishna Chanda, 80, a retired schoolteacher, was excluded. "She was born in Kolkata, her graduation certificate mentions her maiden name, Krishna Ghosh. She was called for verification and asked to prove if she was the daughter of R. Ghosh. The fact that she married and her surname changed to Chanda was not considered. She draws pension from the Assam government where her date of joining the service is 1963. We are dejected, but we will fight this legally. The Constitution gives citizenship to her, let them play politics," an agitated Mr. Chanda said.

Azharuddin, a delivery assistant with food aggregator Swiggy in Guwahati, said six out of 14 members of his family who lived in Karimganj had not made it to the final NRC. "We were called for a hearing and we submitted land records of 1962, yet eight of us are stateless now," he said.

Rokibuz Zaman, a journalist, said several members of his family in Barpeta were excluded.

Sonowal offers help for NRC excluded

RAHUL KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, speaking after the publication of the final National Register of Citizens (NRC) for Assam on Saturday, said, "This is a critical time for the people of Assam. Our government will provide legal help to the excluded people."

Offers of help have also come from the opposition Congress and several NGOs.

State NRC Coordinator Prateek Hajela on Saturday said, "Taking into account all the persons already included and after disposal of all claims and objections and proceedings under Clause 4(3), a total of 3,11,21,004 were found eligible for inclusion in the final NRC, leaving out 19,06,657 people including those who did not submit claims."

"All decisions of inclusion and exclusion were taken by statutory officers in an objective and transparent manner," he said. Applicants were provided adequate opportunity of being heard at every stage of the process conducted as per statutory provisions and due procedure followed at every stage.

AASU to challenge NRC findings in SC

Student body says list is incomplete

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Unhappy with the number of people excluded, the All Assam Students' Union (AASU) has decided to challenge the findings of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in the Supreme Court, which had monitored the exercise.

The AASU, which spearheaded the anti-foreigners Assam Agitation four decades ago, first demanded an updated NRC in 1980. It was a signatory to the agitation-ending Assam Accord of August 1985 that sought "detection, deletion (from voters' list) and deportation" of illegal migrants from the State.

"The figure of 19 lakh NRC-rejects is not what we expected, given the history of large-scale influx into Assam. This NRC has turned out to be incomplete and er-

ror-prone. We will appeal to the Supreme Court to remove the faults and discrepancies," AASU general secretary Lurinjyoti Gogoi said.

Assam Public Works, an NGO whose petition in the Supreme Court in July 2009 led to the start of the NRC exercise four years later, also criticised the findings. It said it would move the court again besides writing to the President, the Prime Minister and the Home Minister.

"We had fought for removing foreigners from Assam, not for their 'Indianisation' which is what the NRC has done. For over a year, we have been telling the Supreme Court for 100% reverification of documents but the NRC State Coordinator's claim of 27% sample reverification was accepted," its chief, Abhijit Sarma, said.

Sanaullah out of the list, AIUDF MLA left in the cold

Ananta Kumar Malo of the AIUDF fails to make the list

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Ananta Kumar Malo, the All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF)'s representative from the South Abhayapuri Assembly constituency in western Assam, has failed Assam's citizenship test, as has his son.

Ilias Ali, Congress MLA from Dalgao, has made it to the National Register of Citizens (NRC) but his daughter has not.

In southern Assam's Cachar district, former legislator Ataur Rahman Mazarbhuiya has been excluded along with one of his two daughters and son. He had won the Katigorah Assembly seat twice on an AIUDF ticket before moving to the Congress. His entire family had figured in the first NRC draft



Mohammad Sanaullah

published on December 31, 2018. But four members, including Mr. Mazarbhuiya - he had used his own legacy data - were put in the exclusion list published on July 30, 2018.

Mohammad Sanaullah, a retired junior commissioned officer of the Army who spent a few days in a detention after being declared a foreigner, has been excluded

from the NRC along with his two daughters and son. His wife, however, has been included in the final list.

Also excluded from the list are women from West Bengal married into Hindu Bengali families settled in Panbazar locality, Guwahati's oldest, for more than 150 years. One of the reasons is believed to have been the failure of the local authorities in West Bengal in verifying their documents in time.

Among such families is that of Brigadier K.P. Lahiri, who received the Veer Chakra for his exploits in the 1965 war and played a key role during the Bangladesh Liberation War of 1971.

Some of Radha Krishna Saraswati's family, the first exporter of Assam silk a century ago, are also excluded.

NRC proves immigrant numbers inflated: AAMSU

'We now have a scientific figure,' it says

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

The All Assam Minority Students' Union (AAMSU) on Saturday said the final National Register of Citizens (NRC), despite its flaws, should make certain groups stop chasing imaginary numbers of "Bangladeshi" people in the State.

This followed the "unhappiness" of the ruling BJP and *khilonjia* (indigenous) organisations such as the All Assam Students' Union over the exclusion of only 19 lakh people's from the final NRC, and their reference to illegal migrant numbers in the past.

"The religious and linguistic minorities have for long endured the Bangladeshi barb... Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi and State NRC Coordinator Prateek Hajela have given As-

sam some data through a scientific process for ascertaining who is a foreigner and who is not. It is now time to stop chasing imaginary figures," AAMSU adviser Azizur Rahman said.

BJP State president Ranjeet K. Dass, hitting out at the Congress for blaming the "erroneous NRC" on the saffron party, cited several figures of foreigners used during the rule of the Congress and other parties.

"Identifying citizens cannot be a game of numbers. Those were imaginary figures to create misunderstanding among Assam's diverse communities for political gains. We have a scientific figure now and should move on after getting together to help genuine Indians among the excluded get back on the NRC," Mr. Rahman said.

Not happy

Most political parties, including the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, and pressure groups were unhappy with the final NRC data. But there has been a call for calm with the security forces making it clear attempts to create trouble - physically or through social media - would be strictly dealt with. "The situation is normal and under control," State police chief Kuladhar Saikia said.

Describing the National Register of Citizens in Assam as a "botched up exercise," West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday said that those who tried to extract political mileage out of it will have to answer the nation. She also said that the exercise was guided by "ulterior motive rather than good of society and larger interest of nation".

(With inputs from Shiv Sahay Singh)

Protesters, police clash in Hong Kong

This comes on the fifth anniversary of a decision by China to curtail democratic reforms

REUTERS
HONG KONG

Hong Kong police fired tear gas and water cannon on Saturday and pro-democracy protesters threw petrol bombs in the latest in a series of chaotic clashes that have plunged the Chinese-ruled city into its worst political crisis in decades.

Police fired round after round of tear gas and protesters took cover behind umbrellas between the local headquarters of China's People's Liberation Army and the government. Protesters also threw bricks dug up from pathways at police.

Protest numbers had dwindled by the early hours of Sunday, with just a few hundred demonstrators and some riot police visible.

Fire bombs thrown

The water cannon unleashed blue-dyed water, to make it easier for police to identify protesters. Riot police then marched on foot towards the neighbouring Admiralty district, followed by 20 police cars, where protesters had thrown fire bombs from flyovers, some landing close to police. Others shone blue



Burning issue: A protester throwing a bottle onto a burning barricade after clashing with police at an anti-government rally in Hong Kong on Saturday. • GETTY IMAGES

and green lasers at police lines. There were unconfirmed reports of an off-duty policeman being wounded.

In the neighbouring Wan-chai bar and restaurant district, police fought running battles with protesters, some beating them with truncheons, according to Reuters witnesses.

There were several arrests. "We have to keep protesting, we cannot let China

take back Hong Kong now," said Evelyn, a 25-year-old asset manager, chanting "gangster" at police outside a subway station across the harbour in Kowloon district. Asked what she would do if authorities did not respond to protesters' demands, she said: "Maybe I will leave Hong Kong. I absolutely cannot live under Chinese rule."

The protests, which at one point blocked three key

roads, came on the fifth anniversary of a decision by China to curtail democratic reforms and rule out universal suffrage in Hong Kong.

"The behaviours of the radical protesters gravely breach the public peace and pose a serious threat to the safety of police officers on duty and members of the public at the scene," the government said in a statement.

Telegram app to protect users' identity

REUTERS
WASHINGTON

Telegram, a popular encrypted messaging app, will allow users to cloak their telephone numbers to safeguard Hong Kong protesters against monitoring by authorities, according to a person with direct knowledge of the effort.

The update to Telegram, planned for release over the next few days, will allow protesters to prevent mainland Chinese and Hong Kong authorities from discovering their identities in the app's large group chats.

Hong Kong Protesters, who take their cues from more than 100 groups on Telegram, use encrypted apps like Telegram to mobilise swiftly through multiple group chats, with less risk of police infiltration, an in-depth report published by Reuters earlier in August said.

Taliban launches attacks in Kunduz amid talks with U.S.

At least three civilians are killed and 41 wounded

REUTERS
KUNDUZ

Taliban forces attacked the northern Afghan city of Kunduz on Saturday, setting off hours of gun battles, even as U.S. negotiators move closer to finalising a deal with the insurgents for the withdrawal of American troops from the country.

Heavy fighting began in Kunduz after Taliban fighters attacked from several directions early in the morning, forcing Afghan forces to rush in reinforcements to prevent the insurgents from gaining control of the city.

At least three civilians were killed and 41 wounded were taken to hospitals, said Ehsanullah Fazli, head of the public health department in Kunduz city.

36 insurgents killed

Government officials in Kunduz and Kabul said the Taliban was seeking shelter inside homes and some of the fighters had entered the main hospital in the city.

The Interior Ministry said at least 36 Taliban insur-



Battle-ready: Afghan security forces arriving in Kunduz during a fight against Taliban on Saturday. • AP

gents were killed in ground and air operations in three areas of Kunduz city and clearance operations were under way.

An air strike in Zakhil area killed 20 Taliban, including two commanders, Afghan security officials said. Taliban spokesmen were not immediately available to confirm the casualty figures.

"Security forces are repelling the Taliban attack on some parts of Kunduz city. Their top priority is to protect the civilians," said Sediq Sediqqi, a spokesman for the

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said in a tweet that Afghan forces were under heavy pressure in different parts of the city.

The fighting in Kunduz, which the Taliban came close to capturing twice in recent years, came as expectations have grown that U.S. and Taliban negotiators in Doha were close to securing an agreement that would see a timetable for the withdrawal of thousands of U.S. troops.

ELSEWHERE



Ranil's party failed the Tamil people: Sirisena

COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's President Maithripala Sirisena on Friday accused Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe's party of not doing enough to bring in a new Constitution to address the problems of Tamils.

"These gentlemen in the government wasted the last four years trying to bring in a new Constitution. They failed the Tamil people..." he said at a gathering in Jaffna. PTI

9/11 plotter, 4 others to go on trial in 2021

WASHINGTON

Alleged 9/11 plotter Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and four others held at the Guantanamo Bay prison camp will finally go on trial in 2021, almost two decades after the attack, *The New York Times* reported on Friday. A military judge set the date for January 11, 2021, said the paper. AFP

Bashir charged with illegal use of funds

KHARTOUM

Sudan's ousted President Omar al-Bashir, who was deposed in April following months of mass protests against his rule, was charged in court on Saturday with illegal acquisition and use of foreign funds, offences that could land him behind bars for more than a decade. AFP

U.S. blacklists Iranian tanker and its captain

Vessel was headed to Syria: Pompeo

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

The U.S. has blacklisted the Iranian tanker *Adrian Darya*, saying that it had "reliable information" the vessel was transporting oil to Syria in defiance of wide-ranging sanctions on the regime of Bashar al-Assad.

Previously known as *Grace I*, the vessel was seized in July by British Royal Marines and held in Gibraltar for six weeks on suspicion it was delivering oil for Tehran's ally Damascus. The British territory released the ship – despite U.S. protests – after it said it had received written assurances from Iran that the vessel would not head for countries under European

Union (EU) sanctions. Tehran later denied it had made any promises about the ship's destination. "We have reliable information that the tanker is under way and headed to Tartus, Syria," U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo tweeted on Friday.

The U.S. Department of Treasury said the vessel was "blocked property" under an anti-terrorist order, and "anyone providing support to the *Adrian Darya I* risks being sanctioned".

The ship's captain, Akhilesh Kumar, was also blacklisted under the order. Since its release from Gibraltar, the ship has been bouncing around the Mediterranean, its every move followed with intense speculation.

U.S. moving ahead with new tariffs on Chinese imports

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

Washington is moving ahead Sunday with new tariffs on Chinese imports as it steps up a campaign aimed at coercing Beijing to sign a new trade deal.

The additional 15% tariffs, affecting a portion of the \$300 billion in goods from China that so far has been spared, will take effect on Sunday, according to the

U.S. Trade Representative's office. President Donald Trump on Friday ruled out any further postponement.

Economists at the Washington-based Peterson Institute for International Economics estimate \$112 billion in goods will be affected.

More than \$250 billion worth of China's \$540 billion in exports to the U.S. (2018 figure) are already subject to tariffs.

Pak. forms high-level panel to hold talks with Sikhs over girl's conversion

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LAHORE

Under pressure, the government in Pakistan's Punjab province has constituted a high-level committee to negotiate with Sikhs angry over the abduction and forced conversion of a teenage girl from the community.

The girl's family alleged that she was converted to Islam at gunpoint and forced to marry a Muslim boy. The

girl's advocate says she converted and married of her own will. An FIR has been registered against six people in the case, Muhammad Jamil, Nankana City Police Investigation Officer said.

1 suspect arrested

Police have arrested one of the suspects named Arsalan, a friend of the prime accused Mohammad Hassan who married the Sikh girl.

The girl was sent to a shelter home in Lahore on Friday on the court's order.

The Punjab government has formed a high-level committee led by Punjab Law Minister Raja Basharat which has been sent to Nanakana Sahib, some 80 km from Lahore, to calm the situation.

The panel will negotiate with a 30-member committee formed by Pakistan's Sikhs over the incident.

U.S. not involved in failed Iran rocket launch: Trump

President's photo tweet raises concerns among experts that he may have revealed surveillance secrets

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump on Friday released a photograph of an apparently failed Iranian rocket launch and said that the U.S. had nothing to do with it.

Tehran has made no official comment on the indications from aerial photos that a rocket exploded on Thursday on the launch pad at the Semnan Space Center in northern Iran.

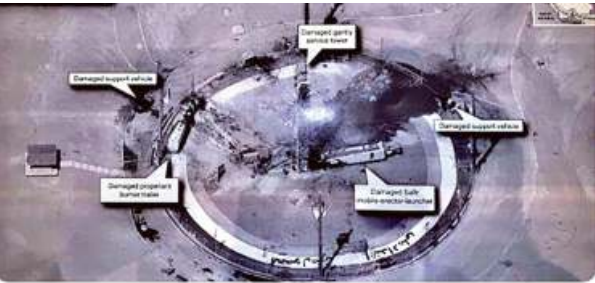
But Mr. Trump tweeted a high-resolution picture of the location, with annotations pointing to damaged vehicles and the launch gantry, saying it involved Iran's Safir satellite rocket. "The United States of America was not involved in the catastrophic accident during final

launch preparations for the Safir SLV Launch at Semnan Launch Site One in Iran," Mr. Trump said in a tweet. Publicly available satellite photos also show what appears to have been the rocket's explosion on its launch pad.

Third try

Tehran was believed to have been planning a third attempt to loft a satellite into space, after two launches in January and February failed to place satellites in orbit.

Iran's Minister for Communications and Information Technology Mohammad Javad Azari Jahromi rejected reports that a satellite had been lost, but did not comment on the alleged launch-pad explosion. "Apparently there were reports that the



A screengrab of U.S. President Donald Trump's tweet that apparently shows an image of a failed rocket launch attempt at the Safir SLV Launch site in northern Iran. • AFP

third attempt to put the satellite in orbit were unsuccessful. In fact, Nahid 1 is alright, and is right now in the laboratory. Reporters can come visit the laboratory, too. #transparency," he tweeted. Mr. Azari Jahromi later posted a selfie of himself in what appeared to be a laboratory

alongside some equipment, tweeting: "Me & Nahid 1 right now, Good Morning Donald Trump!"

Level of resolution

Intelligence experts said Mr. Trump may have exposed a previously unknown level of resolution U.S. spy satellites

have achieved, or that, somehow, U.S. intelligence was able to get a closer shot of the launch site from an over-flying aircraft.

Shadows and glare on Mr. Trump's picture suggested it was a snapshot of the original taken with a cellphone, presumably in a secure environment like the White House Situation Room.

CNBC reported that a defence official confirmed the photo of the launch pad was included in Friday's White House intelligence briefing.

Speaking to reporters late Friday, Mr. Trump said he had the authority to release the picture. "They had a big problem," he said of Iran's launch. "We had a photo and I released it, which I had a right to do."

SUDOKU

	7			5		9		6
	1	2				7		8
			8	4	9			7
2			9	1		7	6	3
	4				2	6	8	
3		4				2	1	
7	1		4				8	

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

8	4	6	7	2	5	9	1	3
5	2	3	6	1	9	4	7	8
1	7	9	3	8	4	6	2	5
6	1	7	5	3	8	2	4	9
4	9	8	2	6	1	3	5	7
3	5	2	4	9	7	8	6	1
2	8	1	9	7	6	5	3	4
7	3	5	8	4	2	1	9	6
9	6	4	1	5	3	7	8	2

U.K. protesters rally against PM's decision to suspend Parliament

Up to 1,00,000 people marched in London, say organisers

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

Protesters wielding pro-democracy placards and European Union (EU) flags rallied on Saturday in dozens of British cities against Prime Minister Boris Johnson's controversial move to suspend Parliament weeks before Brexit.

In the biggest demonstration, thousands of whistle-blowing, drum-banging people gathered raucously outside the gates of Downing Street in London chanting "Boris Johnson shame on you!" "I'm absolutely disgusted by what's happening here," said attendee Maya Dunn, 66, a Dutch citizen living in Britain, who accused Mr. Johnson of "riding roughshod over everybody".

The demonstrations come ahead of an intense political week in which Mr. Johnson's opponents will go to court to block his move to



In resistance: Demonstrators holding up placards outside Downing Street on Saturday, in protest against Prime Minister Boris Johnson's move to suspend Parliament. • AFP

suspend Parliament from mid-September and legislate against leaving the EU without an agreement.

In London, participants heard speeches from Opposition politicians on a stage erected on Whitehall before marching through Westminster. Some held hand-written signs reading "defend democracy: resist the parlia-

ment shutdown" and "wake up UK! Or welcome to Germany 1933". Organisers using the slogan #StopTheCoup claimed as many as 1,00,000 people had turned out in London. Finance Minister Sajid Javid on Saturday defended the move. "It doesn't usually sit for some time in September and early October," he told BBC radio.

Russian Opposition holds new protest march

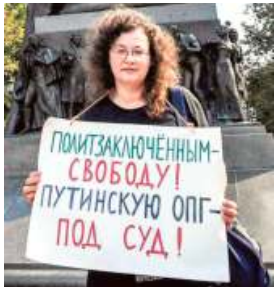
Moscow is to hold election this month

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MOSCOW

Russia's Opposition held a new protest march in central Moscow on Saturday, despite a ban by authorities, a week before regional elections in the capital.

Demonstrations have been held on an almost weekly basis since July after authorities denied most Opposition candidates registration in the elections for city Parliament next Sunday.

Moscow prosecutors warned that the latest rally, called by Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny for 2 p.m. (1100 GMT) on part of the city's Boulevard Ring, was not authorised and participants would "bear responsibility."



A woman holding a poster that reads 'Free political prisoners!' in Moscow. • AFP

"This is our city"

Hundreds gathered at the start site of the announced "March against political repressions" and began a slow walk along the route, occasionally chanting "This is

Tamil family moved to remote island

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MELBOURNE

A Tamil family of four – including two Australian-born toddlers – has been moved to a remote island off the coast of Indonesia, despite a court order blocking deportation, its lawyer said on Saturday.

The family – fighting to remain in Australia because it fears persecution in Sri Lanka – was moved to Christmas Island detention facility overnight, lawyer Carina Ford said, speaking in Melbourne.

The island is a remote Australian territory around 350 km south of Java. The detention centre there had been closed for years.

The family's case has become a new flashpoint over the Australian government's hard-line immigration policies, which include turning away refugees arriving by boat and de facto offshore detention, both measures condemned by the UN.



Ind-Ra downgrades Yes Bank, outlook 'negative'

MUMBAI
Private sector lender Yes Bank said India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) had downgraded its long-term issuer rating to 'IND A+.' "India Ratings and Research has downgraded Yes Bank's long-term issuer rating to 'IND A+' from 'IND AA-," the bank said in a filing. "The outlook is negative. Ind-Ra has affirmed the bank's short-term issuer rating at 'IND A1+'," it added. PTI

Google to unveil 'Build for Digital India'

NEW DELHI
Google said it had signed a statement of intent with the Ministry of Electronics and IT for rolling out 'Build for Digital India' programme. The programme will offer a platform to engineering students to develop technology-based solutions that tackle key social issues, a release said. Students will take part in online and offline learning opportunities on key technologies. PTI

PNB board to meet on Sept. 5 to mull merger

NEW DELHI
Punjab National Bank (PNB) on Saturday said its board of directors will meet on September 5 to consider the lender's merger with Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC) and United Bank of India. In a statement, PNB said, the board will meet [on September 5] to "consider the amalgamation of the Oriental Bank of Commerce and United Bank of India into Punjab National Bank." PTI

CG Power sacks CFO for breach of trust

NEW DELHI
After removing founder Gautam Thapar as chairman of the company, the board of fraud-hit CG Power and Industrial Solutions has sacked the chief financial officer V.R. Venkatesh over alleged 'misconduct' and breach of trust. CEO and MD K.N. Neelkant, sent on leave on May 10 by the board to enable proper probe into financial irregularities, continues in his role for now. PTI

BPCL lines up investment of ₹1.1 lakh crore

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI
State-owned Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) has lined up an investment of ₹1.1 lakh crore in the next five years to expand its refining, marketing, petrochemicals, pipeline and natural gas businesses.
Chairman D. Rajkumar said, "It won't be on refining expansion alone. For Petchem, we will invest ₹20,000 crore. Another ₹20,000 crore for upstream business. For marketing, we have allocated ₹30,000 crore, and ₹6,000 crore in expanding pipeline capacity."
The company plans to invest ₹22,954 crore to expand its Numaligarh refinery from capacity of 3 metric million tonnes per annum (mmtpa) to 9 mmtpa.
"This will be the largest investment in that part of the country. We are laying a pipeline from Paradip to Numaligarh to source crude for the refinery," Mr. Rajkumar said.
In a bid to expand its petrochemicals capacity, the company is setting up a petrochemicals project in Rasayani at a cost of ₹25,000 crore. The company has set aside ₹20,000 crore to invest in its upstream business. Most of it will go towards the Mozambique gas fields. In marketing, the investments will be aimed at increasing BPCL's retail market share to 33% from 27% now.

Indian companies eye Russian oil fields

Firms in talks to buy significant stake in eastern cluster oil fields; investments likely in upstream sector

PIYUSH PANDEY MUMBAI
A consortium of Indian oil firms is in talks to buy a significant stake in the eastern cluster oil fields in Russia with investments running into billions of dollars.
This comes after Indian oil firms have recovered more than one-third of their \$5 billion investments made in Russia within the last three years as dividend after accounting for capital expenditure and operational expenditure.
Deal at summit
A deal is likely to be announced at the Eastern Economic Forum and the Annual Bilateral Summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin in Vladivostok next week, sources in the know of the development told *The Hindu*.
"It's a combination of producing assets and discovered assets that will be put on production soon. We need to see what kind of fields are likely to be clubbed [into] these assets. So, it is premature to talk about reserves and valuations, but we are putting in our expression of interest," a source said.
Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas and Minister



Money in oil: There are huge opportunities for investments in oil and gas in Russia. Russian investments will help change India into a gas-based economy, says the Oil Minister. ■REUTERS
of Steel Dharmendra Pradhan is already in Russia with a delegation of Indian oil firms and Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. chairman Sanjiv Singh for exploring partnerships with Russian firms. Indian firms are expected to invest in Russia's upstream sector while Russian firms

vestments in oil and gas assets in Russia, and Russian investments in new initiatives launched [will help] transform India into a gas-based economy through CGD, LNG terminals and use of natural gas in transportation," Mr. Pradhan tweeted after meeting his Russian counterpart.
Mr. Pradhan also met Russian Deputy Prime Minister Yuri Trutnev and discussed further cooperation in sourcing of crude oil from Far East of Russia.
D. Rajkumar, chairman, BPCL, said, "We are keeping some money [aside] for investment in upstream assets. As far as Russia is concerned, out of our \$1 billion investment, we have recovered \$340 million in the last three years by way of dividend, after accounting for capex and opex."
Indian energy companies have so far invested close to \$10 billion in acquiring stakes in hydrocarbon assets in Russia.



Fewer takers: The passenger vehicle demand trend remains weak across major markets. ■ B. VELANKANNI RAJ

Auto sector sees slow start to festive offtake

'Enquiries-to-sales conversion weak'
LALATENDU MISHRA MUMBAI
The weeks prior to the onset of the festival season seem to have remained subdued for the automobile sector, with analysts seeing a slow start to festive offtake.
"Our recent interaction with leading two-wheeler (2W), passenger vehicles (PV) and commercial vehicles (CV) channel partners in key markets of Delhi, Maharashtra, Kerala and Rajasthan indicated no signs of demand recovery as enquiries-to-sales conversion continues to remain weak year on year," said Deep Shah, research analyst, and Poorvi Banka, research associate, Institutional Equities, Prabhudas Lilladher Pvt. Ltd.
"However, with the onset of key September festivals like Ganesh Chaturthi in Maharashtra and Onam in Kerala, there has been an increase of 5-8% in retail sales (especially in PV and 2W segments), while CV sales continue to remain weak," they said.
In the PV segment, the euphoria around new product launches is driving enquiries. Though the PV demand trend remained weak across major markets, with enquiries-to-sales conversion even weaker for existing models, recent launches such as Hyundai Venue, Kia Seltos, MG Hector and Suzuki XL6 have helped bring footfalls to showrooms.
"The average inventory levels for most PV players remained at 25-30 days (stable month-on-month) except for Tata Motors, where it is still higher at 35-40 days," Prabhudas Lilladher analysts said.
"PV sales in key festive States like Kerala is witnessing 5-8% MoM recovery in bookings, led by onset of Onam festival. Our interaction with channel partners indicates there was no significant impact of floods in Kerala except in a few regions of northern Kerala," they said.
In the two-wheeler segment, inventory still remained high despite continuous correction. "While demand continues to remain weak in major markets, we note 5-8% volume recovery in rural pockets of Maharashtra. However, in tier 2 cities like Pune there is still no sign of demand recovery even for the Ganesh festival yet, as volumes are down 10-15% YoY (festive to festive) so-far," the analysts said, adding the CV segment remained impacted on account of weak freight availability.
The slump has also impacted the luxury vehicle and super bike segments. "The ongoing economic slowdown in India and slump in the automobile market has also impacted the super bikes segment as people are deferring purchase decisions. We hope things will change with improved liquidity during the festive season," Ajinkya Firodia, managing director, Motoroyale Kinetic, said on the sidelines of the launch of MV Augusta Turismo Velocce 800 in Mumbai.
The automotive components sector will also continue to suffer and the sector's revenue growth is expected to be halved in next two fiscals, according to Crisil.

Mondelez to strengthen presence with Oreo
Ties up with ice cream brand Cornetto

INDRANI DUTTA KOLKATA
Mondelez India Private Ltd. (formerly Cadbury India Ltd) is focussing on the Oreo brand and its variants to strengthen its presence in the Indian biscuit market, according to Sudhansu Nagpal, director – marketing (Biscuits) Mondelez India.
"We forayed into the biscuit category in 2011 with Oreo and since then, India has emerged as one of the top three markets (after USA and China) for the brand by volume," he told *The Hindu*.
Oreo's launch in the cream biscuit segment was followed by the launch of Bournvita biscuits in 2016. In 2019, it launched Bournvita Banana & Oats in the breakfast segment.
Mr. Nagpal said that the company was among the top five players in the cream biscuit segment, which accounted for about 25% of the total organised biscuit

market. Till June, it grew faster than industry rates with a 1.8% overall market share. The company, however, was not willing to comment on the impact of the slowdown.
While sales in urban areas have been the company's strength, it forayed into the rural market 18 months ago with ₹5 and ₹10 packs, besides adding to the number of distribution points.
He said that in a brand extension exercise, Mondelez had tied up with ice cream brands to launch products like Cornetto-Oreo, offering "unconventional flavours and formats" in the biscuit category.
It has already launched products through such a partnership with Hindustan Unilever. The company has also drawn up plans to tap into the gifting segment during the festive season. This facility is available through e-commerce sites as well as the company's website.

L&T Construction to build Mumbai's second airport
Step-down subsidiary of GVK awards ₹6,200 crore project

LALATENDU MISHRA MUMBAI
Navi Mumbai International Private Ltd. (NMIAPL), a step-down subsidiary of GVK, has awarded the engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) contract for the greenfield Navi Mumbai International Airport to L&T Construction.
L&T had built the iconic Terminal 2 of the existing airport of Mumbai and also undertook the airport's reconstruction work spanning several years even while the airport was fully functional.
According to people in the know of the development, the order is worth about ₹6,200 crore. The companies had not specified the size of the order.
It would take about 30 months from now to complete the project which was originally intended to be op-



erational by 2019. A complex process of hill-cutting, landlevelling and land-filling of marshy land, including mangroves, is believed to have delayed the project.
The project also had to wait for the relocation of several thousand project-affected people. This project is being implemented in a public private partnership format between State government arm CIDCO and GVK, which operates the existing airport of Mumbai. GVK had bagged this project through a com-

A Facebook-like platform that connects small firms globally

GlobalLinker allows SMEs to network with peers, clients

ASHISH RUKHAIYAR MUMBAI
At first glance, the GlobalLinker portal looks just like Facebook. Once logged in, a user will find posts from entities that he is connected with, his network of connections, notifications related to his posts, likes and comments, among other things.
There is just one difference, though. GlobalLinker is not a social media platform for individuals to share updates about their life. It is a dedicated portal for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) where such entities can network with peers and potential customers while marketing their products and services.
"Facebook is the world's biggest social media platform for individuals and we intend to become such a platform for SMEs," said Sameer Vakil, one of the three co-founders of the company.
"But, our mission and purpose is totally different. We want SMEs to come and talk about their businesses and services. They can connect with potential clients or peers to grow their businesses," added Mr. Vakil, who has earlier worked with Citibank and MasterCard.
SMEs from 5,934 cities
Interestingly, if the numbers are anything to go by, then GlobalLinker has indeed found flavour in the vast SME community.
Launched in 2015, Global-




Sameer Vakil

SMEs have written and contributed over 2,500 articles on the platform
SAMEER VAKIL
Co-founder, GlobalLinker
while adding that over a million connections have been made between SMEs on the platform.
Mr. Vakil, along with Summi Gambhir and TJS Varadhan, founded what he calls an algorithm-based matchmaking and business networking platform, which currently has SMEs across 39 industries and 208 sub-industries with the highest representation from the food and beverage sector followed by construction and real estate.
At a time when a digitised or online presence is considered a necessary ingredient for business growth, GlobalLinker allows member SMEs to create a free e-commerce store apart from helping them create digital business cards, digital business profiles and also a digital product catalogue.
Apart from India, local versions of GlobalLinker are live in Thailand and Philippines. Going ahead, the company is eyeing a presence in regional associations such as South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), European Union (EU) and North American Free Trade Agreement.

NCLAT junks SEBI plea against Assam Company

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI
The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) has dismissed a Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) plea against the resolution plan approved by the Guwahati Bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) for the Assam Company (India) Ltd.
Last year, the NCLT had approved a resolution plan filed by BRS Ventures Investment Ltd. for the revival of Assam Company. As part of the plan, the firm announced delisting its equity shares. Against this, the SEBI moved NCLAT and stated that on the allegation that Assam Company and others were a shell company, an investigation was on and it passed an interim order in December 2017 directing the appointment of an independent forensic auditor to verify financial irregularities.
The firm had challenged the probe before the Gauhati High Court, which had set aside the investigation in March, 2019. SEBI had preferred an appeal before the division bench of the high court; however, no order of stay had been passed in the said case, it added. The NCLAT said the appeal by the regulator was not maintainable in the absence of any violation of the provisions of the code or any existing law or material irregularity.

 <div>ARASU RUBBER CORPORATION LIMITED (A Government of Tamilnadu Undertaking) Regd. Office, Vadasery, Post Box No. 75, NAGERCOIL - 629 001, Kanyakumari District. Telephone No. : (04652) 274203, 274204, 274205. E-mail : arasurubber@gmail.com</div>					
C.No. D1/7009/19		AUCTION CUM TENDER NOTICE			Date : 26.08.2019
Right to do slaughter tapping of latex and Removal of rubber trees					
Coupe Details				Auction cum tender Date /Time	Place
Sl.No.	Division	Unit	Coupe No.	Date : 3.10.2019 Time : 11.00 A.M onwards	Arasu Rubber Corporation Limited, Registered Office, Vadasery, Nagercoil
1.	Manalodai	Manalodai	23B-II, 25B-II, 28 Bit-V		
		Kalikesam	38		
2.	Chithar	Chithar	50		
		Maruthamparai	16,17,18A		
3.	Kodayar	Kallar	76 & 76A, 77, 78, 80, 90, 93		
For Further details, please visit our website 1) www.arasurubber.tn.gov.in 2) www.tenders.tn.gov.in 3) www.forests.tn.gov.in					
DIPR/ 2960 /TENDER/2019					
MANAGING DIRECTOR					



United States-India Science and Technology Endowment Fund
"Commercializing Technologies for Societal Impact"
The governments of India (through the Department of Science & Technology) and the United States of America (through the Department of State) have established the United States - India Science & Technology Endowment Fund (USISTEF) for the promotion of joint activities that would lead to innovation and technopreneurship through the application of science and technology. The Endowment Fund activities are implemented and administered through the bi-national Indo-US Science and Technology Forum (IUSSTF).



CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Mandate	Eligibility
The fund aims to select and financially support promising joint U.S. - India entrepreneurial initiatives that address the theme of "Commercializing Technologies for Societal Impact" through a competitive grants program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Proposals must include a minimum of one partner each from India and the U.S.The Bi-national teams can include:<ul style="list-style-type: none">I. Incorporated companies including start-ups; orII. Non-incorporated entities; orIII. Individuals or consortia from academia, government laboratories non-government R&D institutions.
Funding	Priority Areas
Grant Size up to INR 2.50 Crores or approx. USD 400,000* *All grants are awarded in Indian Rupees (INR) only and subject to prevailing exchange rate.	Healthy Individual: Supports the development of affordable biomedical devices, diagnostic / preventive / curative measures, or food and nutrition products to improve health. Empowering Citizens: Supports efforts to reduce the digital / technology divide. This could include information and communication technologies with societal impact in areas such as water, agriculture, financial inclusion, and education, among other areas.
We Invite	
Bi-national Indo-U.S. teams of entrepreneurs and innovators with: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Innovative product or technology, beyond the idea stageHigh societal impactSignificant potential to commercialize within 2-3 years	

For more information visit
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Submission Deadline: October 15, 2019



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

A plastic emergency

What is the protocol that needs to be in place before a ban on single-use plastic items comes into force?

G. ANANTHAKRISHNAN

The story so far: On August 15, in his Independence Day address, Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for a movement to eliminate single-use plastic in India, beginning on Gandhi Jayanti (October 2). Individuals and organisations should now actively remove plastic waste from their surroundings and municipal bodies must arrange to collect these articles. Start-ups and industries should think of newer ways of recycling. The government is reported to be working on a ban on certain plastic items of common use such as carry bags, cutlery and plates under the Environment (Protection) Act, and this may be announced on October 2, well ahead of the earlier deadline of 2022.

Where does India stand on plastic waste? In spite of the notification of the Plastic Waste Management (PWM) Rules, 2016, and amendments made two years later, most cities and towns are not prepared to implement its provisions. Even the biggest Municipal Corporations shouldering a staggering waste burden have failed to implement segregation of waste: collecting recyclable plastic, non-recyclable plastic and other waste separately for processing by material recovery facilities. This is a growing crisis amid criticism of under-reporting of the true extent of plastic waste. Per capita consumption of plastic is projected to go up from 11 kg in 2014-15 to 20 kg by 2022 (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry data); about 43% is single-use packaging with poor rates of recovery.

A movement against plastic waste would have to prioritise the reduction of single-use plastic, such as multi-layer packaging, bread bags and food wrap. Consumers often have no choice in the matter

An amendment to the PWM Rules in 2018, by which a six-month deadline was fixed for producers to arrange for recovery of waste in partnership with State Urban Development departments, has made

little progress. Neither is plastic marked with numerical symbols (such as 1 for PET, 4 for Low Density Polyethylene, 5 for Polypropylene and so on) to facilitate recycling using the correct industrial process.

Recycling reduces the volume of non-recyclables that must be disposed of using methods such as co-processing in cement kilns, plasma pyrolysis or land-filling. In April this year, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) issued notice to 52 companies asking them to file their plan to fulfil their EPR (extended producer responsibility) obligation.

Are alternatives such as compostable or biodegradable plastics viable? Although compostable, biodegradable or even edible plastics made from various materials such as bagasse (the residue after extracting juice from sugarcane), corn starch, and grain flour are promoted as alternatives, these currently have limitations of scale and cost.

Some biodegradable packaging materials require specific microorganisms to be broken down, while compostable cups and plates made of polylactic acid, a popular resource derived from biomass such as corn starch, require industrial composters. On the other hand, articles made through a different process involving potato and corn starch have done better in normal conditions, going by the experience in Britain. Seaweed is also emerging as a choice to make edible containers.

In India, though, in the absence of robust testing and certification to verify claims made by producers, spurious biodegradable and compostable plastics are entering the marketplace. In January this year, the CPCB said that 12 companies were marketing carry bags and products marked 'compostable' without any certification, and asked the respective State Pollution Control Boards to take action on these units.

A ban on single-use plastic items would have to therefore lay down a comprehensive mechanism to certify the materials marketed as alternatives, and the specific process required to biodegrade or compost them. A movement against plastic waste would have to prioritise the reduction of single-use plastic such as multi-layer packaging, bread bags, food wrap, and protective packaging. Consumers often have no choice in the matter. Other parts of the campaign must focus on tested biodegradable and compostable alternatives for plates, cutlery and cups, rigorous segregation of waste and scaled up recycling. City municipal authorities play a key role here.

What can the packaging industry do? Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar sent a message to the industry at the global flexible packaging conference in Mumbai recently that it must take its extended producer responsibility requirement under the law seriously. The Secretaries of the Environment and Petroleum Ministries said at the event that plastic waste was a key concern, and industry should look at innovation and new materials in the days ahead, besides facilitating collection and recycling with the help of city administrations.

Packaging is projected to grow into a \$72.6 billion industry in India by 2020 from about \$31 billion in 2015, with a proportionate rise in waste volumes. The pressure on producers to streamline the collection, recycling and processing of all forms of plastic is bound to grow.

A central bank or government piggy bank?

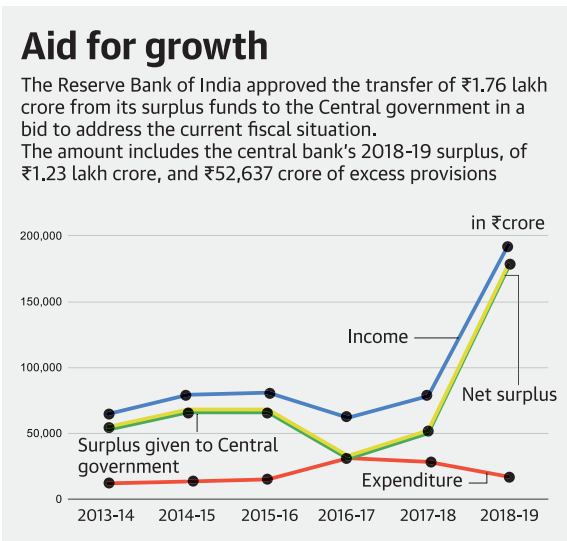
Does the payout damage the credibility of the Reserve Bank of India as an independent central bank? Where do the central bank's earnings come from?

PRASHANTH PERUMAL J.

The story so far: On August 26, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) central board decided to transfer ₹1.76 lakh crore to the government (including a sum of ₹52,637 crore from its contingency reserve), a move that is likely to address the Central government's precarious fiscal situation. The transfer amount included the payment of dividend worth ₹1.23 lakh crore, and funds from its reserves, as identified under a new economic capital framework (ECF) adopted by the RBI board. The RBI had formed a committee chaired by former RBI Governor Bimal Jalan to review its ECF last year.

Why is the RBI payout different this year? Each year, the RBI transfers to the government any money in its balance sheet that it deems to be beyond its operational and contingency needs. The RBI's transfer of funds to the government per se is nothing new. But what has raised eyebrows this time is that the amount of funds being transferred by the central bank to the government this year is much higher than earlier – 146.8% more than what it had paid out last year, when it transferred ₹50,000 crore as dividend. Previously, the highest amount of surplus funds that the RBI had transferred to the government was ₹65,896 crore in 2014-15. The net surplus figures are: ₹52,683 (2013-14); ₹65,896 (2014-15); ₹65,880 (2015-16); ₹30,659 (2016-17) and ₹50,000 (2017-18)

What is the controversy around the transfer? The massive payout has raised concerns that the government may be confiscating money from the RBI to meet its urgent spending needs, thus effectively turning the central bank into a banker for the government. Central banks such as the RBI, however, are supposed to be independent from all forms of government influence. In reality, governments across the world try to influence decision-making by their respective central banks in various ways. When appointing members to the central bank, such as to the post of Governor for instance, governments tend to pick bureaucrats who have been loyal to them over time. Many also view the move to get the RBI to let go of a portion of its accumulated reserve as part of a wider campaign by the government to strip the powers of various independent regulatory bodies. In July, the government amended the Finance Bill to ensure that the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) transferred surplus funds in its custody over to the



government. Some economists argue that the government has the right to make use of funds in the custody of public institutions such as the RBI to meet its fiscal needs. Critics, however, argue that stripping the financial assets of regulatory institutions such as the RBI and SEBI can compromise their independence.

How does the RBI earn money? The RBI earns money in a variety of ways. Open market operations, wherein a central bank purchases or sells bonds in the open market in order to regulate money

The government is expected to achieve its 3% fiscal deficit target this year with the help of the funds it has received from the RBI. The funds will also help the government to spend more on any fiscal stimulus plan in tackling the economic slowdown

supply in the economy, are a major source of income for the RBI. Apart from the interest received from these bonds, the RBI may also profit from favourable changes in bond prices. Dealings in the foreign exchange market that the RBI engages in may also contribute to the bank's profits. The RBI, for instance, may buy dollars cheaply and sell them dear in the future to pocket profits. It should be noted, however, that

unlike commercial banks, the primary mandate of the RBI is not to earn profits but to preserve the value of the rupee. Profit and loss are thus merely a side effect of its regular operations to shape monetary policy.

Are the RBI's powers being diluted? The primary issue with the transfer of surplus funds is

the damage that it does to the credibility of the RBI as an independent central bank. The government has been criticised for taking steps since last year to progressively dilute the powers of the RBI. The government had tried to convince the central bank to part with more than ₹3 lakh crore from its reserves last year. It appointed a committee headed by Mr. Jalan to overhaul the economic capital framework. The government argued that the quantum of reserves accumulated by the RBI over the years was well beyond the needs of the central bank. This, it is believed, caused friction between the government and the then Governor of the RBI, Urjit Patel, who resigned from his post last December. Some believe the government will still manage to get hold of the initial corpus of funds that it wanted from the RBI, but over the next few years. Some have raised concerns about the RBI's ability to meet emergencies with its now depleted reserves. These concerns, however, may be unwarranted since, as the sole and sovereign issuer of the rupee, there is effectively no limit to the amount of rupees that the RBI can create to deal with an emergency. The real impact that the forced transfer of funds will have is on the RBI's independence in setting monetary policy. The transfer of surplus reserves to the government is in effect a forced injection of extra liquidity into the economy. The increased demand to meet the government's fiscal needs will thus compromise the RBI's ability to fulfil its primary mandate – to preserve the value of the rupee by reining in inflation, by retaining full and final control over the supply of rupees in the wider economy.

What lies ahead? The government is expected to achieve its 3% fiscal deficit target this year with the help of the funds it has received from the RBI. The fresh funds will also help the government to spend more on any fiscal stimulus plan that it may decide to implement in order to tackle the slowdown in the economy. The transfer of money from the vaults of the RBI to fund government spending will increase the amount of money supply in the economy, thus exerting an upward pressure on prices. The RBI's transfer of surplus funds to the government could thus effectively turn into a monetary stimulus for the economy which has been slowing down for several consecutive quarters now.

Former RBI Deputy Governor, Viral Acharya (whose resignation earlier this year was linked to his conflicts with the government), warned in a speech last year that governments that do not respect the independence of the central bank will eventually be punished by financial markets. His warning might turn out to be prescient in the coming years if the RBI is turned into a piggy bank to fund the government's increasing spending needs. It can cause investors to lose confidence in the RBI's ability to preserve the value of the rupee and force them to ditch the currency.

What is the economics behind e-vehicle batteries?

India is seeking a transition from conventional fuel vehicles to e-vehicles. Are EVs economically feasible for mass use?

S. VENKATRAMAN

The story so far: Shifting gears in the transition to electric vehicles (EVs), the NITI Aayog, in May this year, proposed to ban the sale of all internal combustion engine (ICE) powered three-wheelers post March 2023. It also suggested that all new two-wheelers below 150cc sold after March 2025 should be electric. In consonance with these proposals, the Union Budget presented on July 5 announced tax incentives for early adopters. Even as the automobile industry had objected to the think-tank's proposal and called for a practical approach in framing electric vehicle-related policies, there has been the worry that EVs are still not financially viable because of various costs associated with their manufacture and use.

How are cost structures of conventional vehicles and electric vehicles different? The portion of the costs of the drivetrain of EVs – the system in a motor vehicle which connects the transmission to the drive axles – in comparison to the cost of the entire vehicle is four percentage points lower when compared to ICE vehicles. This is primarily due to less parts in the electric drivetrain. However, the battery pack takes up nearly half the cost of an electric vehicle. For any meaningful reduction in the physical value of EVs, the cost of battery packs needs to reduce significantly. *Chart 1* compares the cost breakdown of a conventional ICE vehicle with an electric vehicle. *Chart 2* compares the drivetrain cost breakdown between the two kinds.

What are the components of a battery pack and how much do they cost? The predominant battery chemistry used in EVs is lithium-ion batteries (Li-ion). No new technologies are on the horizon for immediate commercial usage.

The cost of the materials or key-components of the battery, namely the cathode, anode, electrolyte, separator, among others, contribute the most (60%) to the total cost. Labour charges, overheads and profit margins account for the rest. Labour is a relatively minuscule component of the overall cost. Any reduction in the cost of the battery pack will have to come from a reduction in materials cost or the manufacturing overhead. The *graph* shows the cost split of a Li-ion battery pack.

How has the cost of the Li-ion battery pack cost evolved in the last decade?

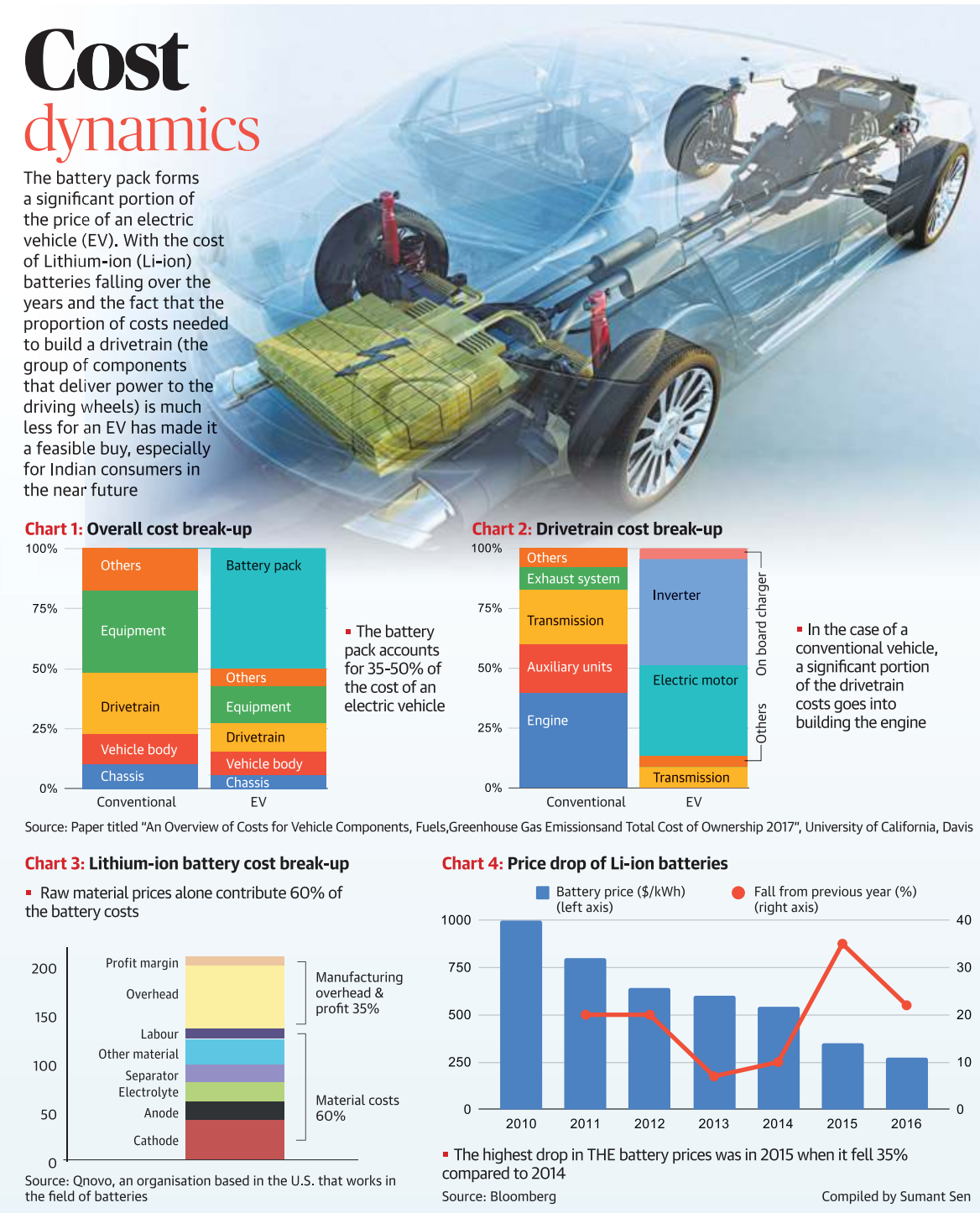
The price of these battery packs has consistently fallen over the past few years. This decrease is in part due to technological improvements, economies of scale and increased demand for lithium-ion batteries. Fierce competition between major manufacturers has also been instrumental in bringing down prices.

The *chart* shows the change in the price of Li-ion batteries from 2010 to 2016. It is not clear if the battery cost can be reduced even further. Given that raw materials account for 60% of the cost of the battery pack, the room for further cost reduction is rather limited.

Where does India stand on EV adoption? In India, EV adoption will be driven by two-wheelers rather than cars in high numbers on because India's mobility market is driven more by two wheelers. According to the NITI Aayog, 79% of vehicles on Indian roads are two-wheelers.

Three-wheelers and cars that cost less than ₹10 lakh account for 4% and 12% of the vehicle population, respectively.

Two-wheelers will also need smaller batteries when



compared to cars and hence the overall affordable cost. India needs to manufacture Li-ion cells in-house. Now, cells are imported and "assembled" into batteries. Setting up a Li-ion manufacturing unit requires high capital expenditure. But battery manufacturing in India is expected to grow as electric vehicles grow.

Are EV vehicles completely environment friendly? In conventional ICEs, petrol or diesel fuels the engine.

India needs to manufacture lithium-ion cells in-house. Currently, cells are imported and 'assembled' into batteries. Setting up a Li-ion manufacturing unit requires high capital expenditure.

However, in EVs, batteries are not the fuel; electrons supplied by the battery fuel the vehicle. The battery is a device that stores electrons/energy which is sourced from electricity.

Presently, most of India's electricity is generated using conventional sources. In 2018-19, over 90% of India's electricity was generated from conventional sources, including coal, and around 10% was produced from renewable sources such as solar, wind and biomass. While the rate of electricity generated from renewable sources has increased over the years, more needs to be done for their adoption.

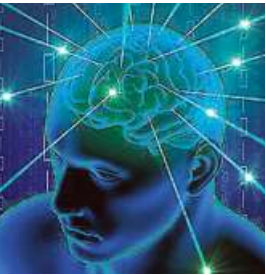
This is because the EV-charging infrastructure needs to be powered through renewable sources to make it truly sustainable.

Dr. S. Venkatraman is R&D Manager, Duracell

CAPSULE



Oldest parasite DNA
The oldest parasite DNA ever recorded has been found in the ancient, desiccated faeces of a puma. Radiocarbon dating revealed that the coprolite and thus the parasitic roundworm eggs preserved inside dated back to between 16,570 and 17,000 years ago, towards the end of the last Ice Age.



How memories form
Using mouse models, Caltech researchers have determined that strong, stable memories are encoded by "teams" of neurons all firing in synchrony, providing redundancy that enables these memories to persist. It will help understand how memory might be affected after brain damage.



Storms on Jupiter
Coordinated observations of Jupiter in early 2017 by six ground-based telescopes and Hubble allowed astronomers to study the evolution of bright plumes and connect them with cloud movements deep in the planet. The plumes create disturbances in the belts and even change their colour.

Filter-based kits developed for TB diagnosis, drug-resistance testing

The kits improve the sensitivity of smear microscopy and transport of sputum samples

R. PRASAD

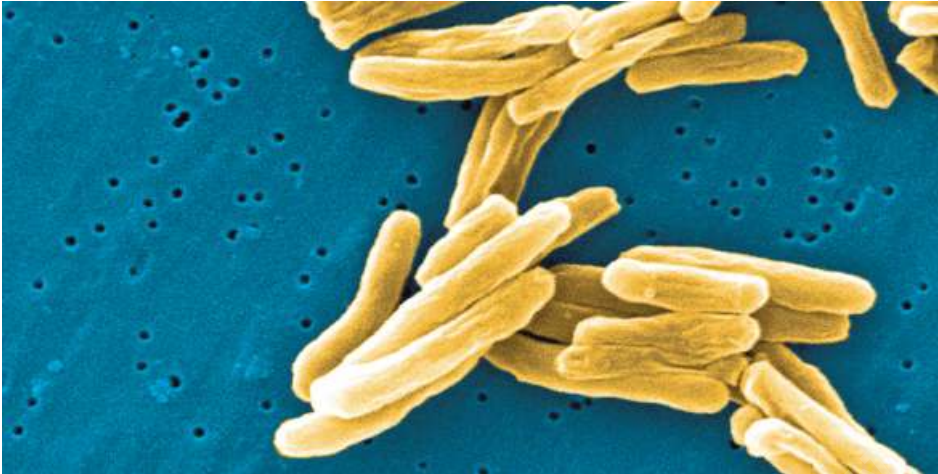
To address the TB diagnostic challenges, a multi-institutional team has developed three cost-effective kits that improve the sensitivity of smear microscopy, enable transport of sputum samples at ambient temperature without using bio-safe containers, and extract DNA for diagnosing drug-resistant TB. The three kits are – TB Detect, TB Concentration & Transport, and TB DNA Extraction.

The TB Detect kit is for diagnosis using LED fluorescence microscopy, while the TB Concentration & Transport, and the TB DNA Extraction kits together are for detection of drug-resistance. The TB Detect kit helps increase the positivity of LED fluorescence microscopy by about 5%, while the TB DNA Extraction kit allows the detection of drug-resistant TB bacteria with a high level of sensitivity. The results of the study were published in *PLOS ONE*.

The TB Detect kit currently costs Rs.100 per sample, Rs.100 for the TB transport kit and Rs.85 for the DNA extraction kit.

In the case of the TB Detect kit, the team led by Prof. Jaya Sivaswami Tyagi from the Department of Biotechnology at AIIMS used a simple filter-based system to separate TB bacteria from the sputum to improve the sensitivity of LED fluorescence microscopy. In this, the sputum, which is viscous, is first liquefied using a proprietary reagent and pre-filtered. The bacteria in the liquefied sputum pass through a paper-like filter while some of the cell debris are retained on the filter.

The liquefied sputum con-



Improved detection: The three kits (bottom) improve the sensitivity of smear microscopy by about 5% and make transportation of sputum samples easy as TB bacteria are killed.

taining the TB bacteria then comes in contact with a highly porous, plastic membrane filter underlain by multiple fibrous pads kept at the base of the filter device. While the sputum gets sucked by the fibrous pad due to capillary forces, the bacteria remain on the membrane.

“The membrane concentrates the bacteria in a small surface, which is about 1 cm in diameter. This leads to an increase in the detection limit,” says Mr. Nalini Kant Gupta from the Advanced Microdevices Pvt Ltd, Ambala, who developed the membrane filter, the filter device and the kits. He is a co-author of the paper.

The limit of detection was found to be higher when the bacteria were separated from sputum prior to examination under a microscope. “By separating the bacteria from sputum, it becomes possible to detect TB bacteria even when they are fewer in number. Even when only 1,000 bacteria are present per ml of sputum it is possible to detect them compared with 10,000 bacteria per 1 ml of sputum in

the conventional system,” says Prof. Tyagi.

It also takes less time to examine a sample under a microscope – one minute vis-a-vis three-five minutes when the sputum is spread on a glass slide. This is because the sputum on a glass slide covers a large area requiring more number of fields to be viewed.

Diagnosis of drug-resistant TB is carried out only at central laboratories, and so samples have to be transported. The TB concentration & transport kit now makes it easy and simple to transport samples – transport it in sealed covers at ambient temperature making containment at low temperature redundant.

This is because the bacteria are killed using a disinfectant.

“Since the bacteria are killed it is not possible to culture them. But for molecular testing to diagnose drug-resistant TB, only the DNA is needed and so it does not matter if the bacteria are dead or alive,” says Prof. Tyagi.

The third kit – TB DNA Extraction – allows DNA to be isolated from the bacteria present on the filter paper. “To extract the DNA, the filter paper containing the bacteria are heated at 90 degree C in a lysis solution. The cell membrane ruptures and the DNA gets released from the bacteria, which is purified for molecular testing,” says Dr. Saga-



Evolution of antibiotic resistance in E. coli studied

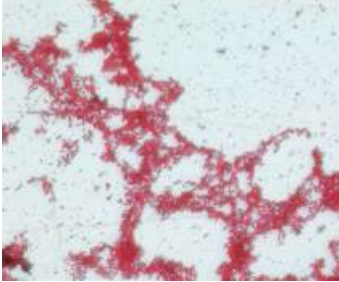
Bacteria form biofilms when exposed to low concentrations of antibiotic

SHUBASHREE DESIKAN

It is well known that low concentrations of antibiotics can cause resistance to evolve among bacteria. Now, a group of researchers from IISER Pune has taken this further to explore how exactly this happens. They have studied how resistance to the antibiotic rifampicin evolves in *E. coli* under two conditions – when the antibiotic is present in low or high concentrations, and when there is steady or pulsed supply of antibiotics.

Bacteria develop drug resistance both when they are within the body and outside. The fact that antibiotics are unevenly distributed within the body or intake of drugs could be stopped midway can lead to evolution of drug resistance. Similarly, low doses of such drugs available intermittently in the environment can also cause drug resistance to evolve in the bacteria.

According to a study published



Weathering stress: Bacteria sticking together to form pellicles.

in the journal *Genetics*, the process of evolution of drug resistance appears to be rapid. “We found that *E. coli* can evolve resistance to rifampicin within a few generations of drug exposure. That’s less than half a day,” says Nishad Matange from the Biology department of IISER, Pune, who studied emergence of resistance under laboratory conditions.

A characteristic of some drug-resistant strains of bacteria is that they do not live in isolation but get

connected to each other, forming biofilms. Using genetics and biochemistry, the researchers found that when under exposure to low concentrations of rifampicin, the *E. coli* tend to form biofilms. This did not happen when they were exposed to high concentrations of antibiotic. “This is pretty dangerous since biofilms by themselves are a major challenge for hospitals and clinicians,” says Dr Matange.

Many genetic changes in the *E. coli* descendents were observed when the bacteria were exposed to low concentration of the antibiotic rifampicin. In order to understand the relevant genetic mutations that helped the bacteria form biofilms, the researchers engineered the individual mutations into the parent bacteria and studied which particular mutation was responsible for resistance against rifampicin. They found that biofilm formation was mediated by the activation of particular gene called the *fim* operon pro-

moter. Activation of the gene allowed the expression of a type of fimbriae – thread-like structures that help a bacterium attach itself to another bacterium. These are important in the formation of biofilms.

Though the researchers have specifically studied how *E. coli* evolve resistance against rifampicin, the results may be extrapolated to Gram-negative bacteria in general. This will be useful in studying drug resistance in other Gram-negative bacteria such as *Klebsiella* and *Salmonella* which cause hazardous infections.

However, the team is planning to extend this study to a host of other antibiotics. “Eventually, we aim to generate a multi-antibiotic low and high drug concentration genetic map that will point out significant genes and cellular pathways that are responsible for the evolution of resistance at low and high drug respectively,” says Dr Matange.

Southern Ocean could control global climate

PTI

Scientists have made a new discovery challenging the previous understanding of the link between the Southern Ocean and the atmospheric carbon dioxide levels. The study shows that contrary to existing assumptions, biological processes far out at sea are the most important factors determining how the ocean absorbs carbon dioxide.

The Southern Ocean plays a critical role in how the carbon dioxide is taken out of the atmosphere, and knowing how it functions helps scientists understand this mechanism’s role during dramatic climate transitions in the past and better predict the current and future climate change. The team studied data collected as part of the ANDREX project which measured various properties of the waters in the gyre between 2008 and 2010. The data considered in this study showed unambiguously that, in the Weddell Gyre, the dominant process enabling the uptake of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and its removal to the deep ocean included the role of phytoplanktons.



Repercussions: When land use changes the internal niche is affected too.

How humans increased wildlife parasites

Presence of plantations, livestock significantly increases parasite diversity

ASWATHI PACHA

While we humans are known to destroy wildlife habitats and make life hard for animals, a new research has now pointed out that by changing the land use patterns and introducing livestock in their ecosystem we are indirectly increasing the parasite diversity in their gastrointestinal system.

However, more studies are needed to understand if this might affect their population decline. The team looked at over 4,000 mammalian faecal samples collected from 19 forest fragments at the Anamalai Hills of the Western Ghats. These samples belonged to 23 mammalian species including tigers, deer, porcupines, lion-tailed macaques, giant squirrels and others. By analysing the faecal samples, they concluded that the presence of plantations and livestock significantly increased the parasite diversity. The paper published in *Scientific Reports* says that this could be due to spillover from the livestock and humans.

“By looking at the Natural History Museum parasite database, we noted that many of the parasites are known to infect humans. However, this doesn’t necessarily mean that the people currently living in Anamalai Hills are currently infected,” explains Dr. Debapriyo Chakraborty, an independent disease ecologist and first author of the paper.

“When the land use changes – coffee plantation to tea plantation or when degraded forests are converted to a coffee estate – the internal niche is affected. Many epidemic diseases including the Ebola virus started finding humans as a better new host when their natural habitats were disrupted. Similarly unknown diseases could occur as a result of this anthropogenic land use changes,” explains Dr. Govindhaswamy Umapathy at the Laboratory for the Conservation of Endangered Species, Centre for Cellular & Molecular Biology (CSIR-CCMB), Hyderabad. He is the corresponding author of the work.

“By changing the existing landscape we are not just affecting the wildlife but also taking a toll on the weather and rainfall patterns. The identified eco-sensitive zones must be conserved for the well-being of all,” adds Dr. Umapathy.

One Health approach

“We need to understand that these parasites can cause a broad range of infectious diseases and it is important to study the host-parasite interactions at a community level. Also, one host can have multiple parasites and vice versa,” says Dr. Chakraborty. “Before any new interventions like land use changes or habitat modifications are be-

ing carried out complex health consequences of these large-scale human activities should be kept in mind.”

He adds that the One Health approach needs to be used as parasites, their animal hosts and humans are a complex system which needs to be studied together.

Human settlements

Also, some studies have shown that wildlife tends to congregate near human settlements. Herbivores such as deer may find the human settlements as a source of regular food and also as a safe zone where carnivores don’t enter. This could also be a reason for pathogen spillover from livestock to wildlife. The group had shown previously that high parasite prevalence was one of the reasons for the decline of endangered lion-tailed macaque populations in small and degraded forest fragments in the Western Ghats.

Cholera bacteria have become highly drug-resistant

The bacteria have become resistant to all commonly used antibiotics. The highest resistance was against sulfamethaxazole

R. PRASAD

A study of 443 clinical isolates of cholera-causing bacterium (*Vibrio cholerae*) isolated from the faecal sample of diarrhoea patients from two sites – Kolkata and Delhi – reveals how extensively the bacteria have developed resistance against most routinely used antibiotics.

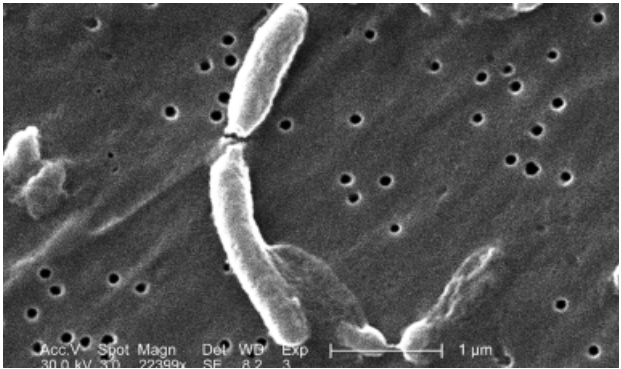
Using 22 antibiotics belonging to nine different classes, a team led by Bhabatosh Das from the Centre for Human Microbial Ecology at the Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI) found that 99% (438) of the isolates have developed resistance to more than two antibiotics, over 17% (76) to more than 10 antibiotics and 7.5% (33) to more than 14 antibiotics. The results were published in the journal *Pro-*

ceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS).

The highest resistance (99.8%) was seen against the antibiotic sulfamethaxazole, whereas resistance to neomycin was the least, with only 4% showing resistance.

Isolates collected from Kolkata showed relatively less resistance than isolates collected from Delhi. This might probably because the Kolkata isolates were collected between 2008 and 2013, while the Delhi samples were collected during 2014-2015.

The team sequenced the whole genome of the bacteria isolated during 1980, 2000s, 2014 and 2015. “In 1980, fewer antibiotics were used and resistance was minimal. With increasing usage of different antibiotics, the resistance against them has also increased. By 2014-2015 the



Grave situation: *Vibrio cholerae* pathogen isolated from patients is resistant to multiple drugs

bacteria have become extensively drug resistant (XDR) to all commonly used antibiotics,” says Dr. Das.

The team then studied if the resistant genes are still functional and found that all antibiotic genes that have been identified so far are indeed functional.

To check if the genes are functional, the team tested the susceptibility of *E. coli* to different antibiotics and then transferred the resistant gene to the *E. coli*. “We found that *E. coli* which was earlier susceptible to a particular antibiotic became resistant after the gene was transferred,”

says Jyoti Verma from THSTI and the first author of the paper.

Secretion of proteins

Next the researchers studied whether the proteins responsible for antibiotic resistance get synthesised in the presence and absence of antibiotics. The scientists found that even in the absence of the antibiotics in the culture environment, the proteins get expressed.

“That was really surprising,” says Dr. Das. “The expression of the antibiotic resistance proteins even in the absence of the antibiotic suggests that it may contribute to other cellular metabolic processes.”

“We found that a single isolate has multiple resistant genes from the same class that can neutralise the effect

of different antibiotics. So even if we introduce a new generation of antibiotic, the bacteria will most probably be able to neutralise it,” he says.

The resistant genes are genetically linked to different mobile genetic elements, which mean that resistance can spread very easily and quickly to other bacterial species through horizontal gene transfer.

Among more than 206 serogroups of *V. cholerae*, only two serogroups are pathogenic cholera-causing bacteria. They are generally not found in the environment but only in animal reservoirs such as water birds and crustaceans.

The mechanism

So how do the bacteria develop resistance to antibiotics if not naturally present in the

environment at all times? “The toxigenic *V. cholerae* are detected in the gut of even healthy individuals. But they do not manifest the disease cholera as other bacteria present in the gut repress the expression of the toxigenic genes,” Dr. Das says.

Dr. G. Balakrish Nair from the Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology, Thiruvananthapuram adds: “The *V. cholerae* are naturally competent to uptake DNA from the environment. So in the gut when the bacteria that have a resistant gene die the DNA gets released and are taken up by the *V. cholerae*.”

In a study published this year, a team led by Dr. Das demonstrated that when DNA is added in the growth medium, the *V. cholerae* bacteria tend to take up the resistant gene and become resistant in turn.

Fingerprint of Earth’s atmosphere

PTI

Astronomers at Canada’s McGill University have made a “fingerprint” for the Earth, which could be used to identify a potentially life sustaining planet beyond the solar system. Using observations of the Earth’s atmosphere taken by the SCISAT satellite, researchers have constructed a transit spectrum of Earth - a detail on the fingerprint-like unique composition of our planet’s atmosphere.

The findings can help in determining ‘biosignatures’ that astronomers need to look out for in order to find Earth-like planets outside solar system.

Moon is a romance

R.D. SINGH

As Chandrayaan -2 prepares to land on the moon, I am taken back nearly 60 years when our grand-ma at Pilimandori village in Haryana used to sing us a lullaby: *Chandamaa door ke/ pue pakaye poor ke/ aap khaye thali mein/ munne ko de pyali mein/ pyali gayi toot munna gaya rooth.*

It was a simple, idyllic life, and the moon and stars played a stellar role as we played at night. Kabaddi matches would be held on moonlit nights. We would prepare the ground on soft sand and select our teams from the mohalas.

This was also the time to enjoy wrestling by night, with the shining moon being our main source of light. As a child, I often slept in our fields at night, to guard the crops from stray animals. With my cot in the centre of a swaying wheat or bajra crop and an irrigation water channel running by, it used to be heavenly with the cool breeze and hot milk.

Our grandma had told us a number of mythological stories about the sky and the solar system. “*Dadi*, what is that dark figure on the moon?” “It’s a grandma spinning *charkha*,” she would say.

I would ask my brother about the galaxy and the pole star. While he used to explain to me the method to spot the pole star, I would suddenly notice a shooting star and shriek with joy. In the Army, in our younger days, when there was no GPS or cell-phone, navigation by stars and the moon used to be taught to us. During the exercise Brass Tacks in 1987, one night we covered over 70 km using just our compass and the sky, and we hit the target spot on.

During winters in Leh, the temperature reaches minus-20 to -30 degrees Celsius. Still, I would go out of my room and walk through the snow, just to see the moon.

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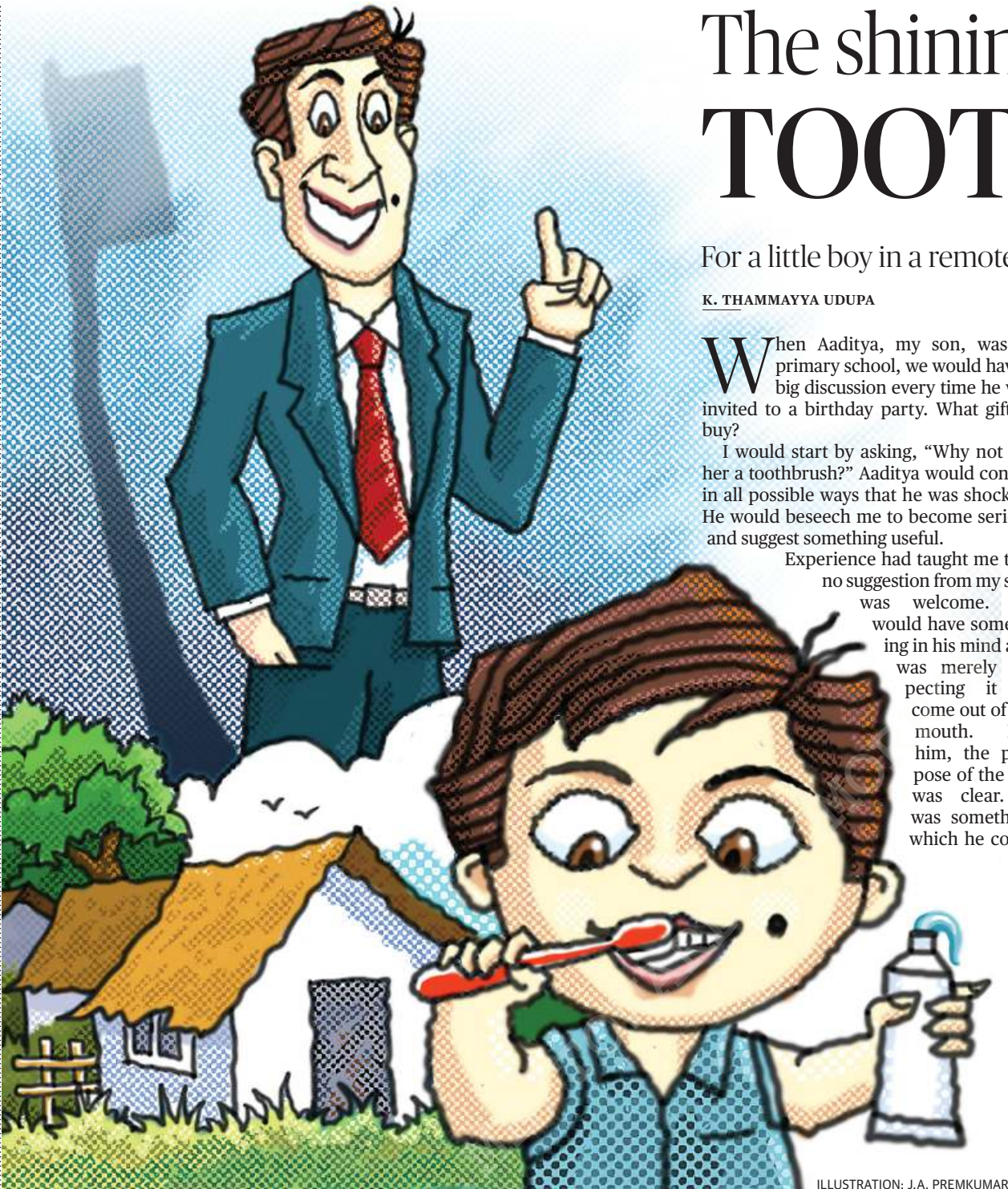


ILLUSTRATION: J.A. PREMKUMAR

The shining light of a TOOTHBRUSH

For a little boy in a remote village on the border, it became a symbol of empowerment

K. THAMMAYYA UDUPA

When Aaditya, my son, was in primary school, we would have a big discussion every time he was invited to a birthday party. What gift to buy?

I would start by asking, “Why not gift her a toothbrush?” Aaditya would convey in all possible ways that he was shocked. He would beseech me to become serious and suggest something useful.

Experience had taught me that no suggestion from my side was welcome. He would have something in his mind and was merely expecting it to come out of my mouth. For him, the purpose of the gift was clear. It was something which he could

play with or use whenever he visited that friend. It was not his concern if the gift was of any use to the recipient.

Years later, as an adult, he asked me one day, “*Appa*, why did you always suggest a toothbrush for a birthday gift?”

“Because a toothbrush was a symbol of empowerment and success for a child many years ago,” I replied.

In one of the isolated forward areas that I had the opportunity to serve, there was nothing other than a cluster of 15 to 20 huts with 10 to 12 children. It was heartening to see that though most of the parents were barely literate, every child of school-going age was enrolled in a government school almost 5 km away. During my interaction with the elders, on learning about the difficulties faced by the schoolchildren in studies, I offered to help.

Most regular among the children who then started attending the “captain’s classes”, as they started calling it (I was then a Captain), was 10-year-old Robin. He was the most gifted of the lot.

Honestly, other than correct his English, I did not have to teach him much. His grades in school were satisfactory. All that I had to do was give him a boost of confidence and he began to sparkle. Soon, I started using him as a teacher for the younger children. This helped him blossom further and allowed the young ones to assimilate their lessons in their mother tongue.

A luxury
Robin had a disarming smile. He was never conscious of his stained teeth. When I commented on his dental hygiene, he became serious.

That is when I learnt that what we took

for granted was then a luxury in those parts. I bought a toothbrush, toothpaste and a tongue cleaner for him. He was overjoyed.

He told me that he had seen them being used by someone in a nearby village and had always longed for these. On his request, I had to give him a demonstration on their use. I stressed on him the importance of oral hygiene. To say that he was thereafter imbued with new-found confidence would be an understatement.

One day, he confided in me in all seriousness and innocence, “Some day, I will go out from here and study in a big college. I want to bring prosperity to my village. After all, I am lucky to get an education. After all, I am lucky to be brushing my teeth.” That is when I realised how much the toothbrush meant for him.

Till the time I moved out from there, I would guide him on the path to follow to fulfil his dreams.

Then, I would receive letters from Robin every few months. It was easy to discern that he was making good scholastic progress.

One day, a few years later, when I was posted in Delhi, a strapping young lad walked into my office. Robin it was, the toothy smile gave him away, though he was quite tall and muscular now. He had got admission in one of the top colleges of the country, located in Delhi.

We talked about his younger days and about the “captain’s classes”. I teased him about the toothbrush. Suddenly, he became emotional. He said, “Uncle, for me it was no laughing matter. For me, the toothbrush was empowerment.”

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In search of lost time

MADAN MOHAN MATHUR

I am full of nostalgia for the homeland I lost 72 years ago to Partition. An entry in my grandfather’s old diary, in Urdu with black ink, says I was born 88 years ago in an old house on Mohan Lal Road in Lahore when the clock struck 7 on a September evening in 1931.

The old magnificent clock on the second floor was a living presence in the household, its loud, melodious chiming regulating the lives of members of the joint family. My grandfather carefully cleaned the clock and lovingly wound it up at 8 every Sunday morning.

I used to feel particularly thrilled when at noon, the clock chimed 12. It was the signal to abandon play and rush for the midday meal. During summers, when everybody rests indoors in the afternoons, it appeared as if the clock was also taking a siesta, reluctantly striking only once every half hour. Then, towards the evening, it awoke from slumber and its chiming became quicker and louder as the household resumed normal activities.

Slowly and steadily, days passed into months and years, and as I grew up

through the joys of boyhood and pangs of adolescence, the clock remained my guardian angel. Its slow and steady tick-tock was a reassuring and comforting presence.

This peaceful rhythm of life did not, however, last very long. By the summer of 1946, the country was going through the pangs of political upheaval, leading to Partition which shattered our whole life. As with thousands of other families in Punjab, we had to abandon Lahore overnight, leaving everything behind, even the clock.

Seven long decades have since gone by, and we seem to be different people living in a different world. But in the race towards material progress, we seem to have lost the mysterious joy of listening to the quiet sound of passing time, tick-tock, tick-tock, ding-dong, ding-dong, day after day.

I am reminded of Benjamin Franklin’s famous words: “Lost time is never found again.” But helplessly, my sluggish memory often crawls back to that old house in Lahore, and I wonder if the clock is still there on the wall.

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Being on alert against fake news

When it comes to evaluating information on social media, even the educated are easily duped

A. AMALRAJ

The Internet gives access to a vast trove of data, both necessary and unnecessary. A surfer gets information posted by anonymous people who, uninhibited by the fear of law, post anything and escape the consequences.

As Web pages are susceptible to accidental or deliberate alteration, there is little possibility of finding if the information is valid, doctored, morphed or just a figment of the imagination of the hidden author.

Free services that allow encrypted messages, which are easy to access and forward, are the order of the day. Not a day passes without some text, photo or video, often modified to suit the taste of the creator, landing on our mobile phones. This unchecked way of information-sharing often tends to create scandals of mind-boggling proportions. Luckily, most of these scandals have a short shelf life. The importance of the message withers away when new information takes its place in quick succession.

Fake news is now a mount-

ing problem as fraudsters and anti-social elements use social media platforms to target people. Factual news is increasingly getting buried in an avalanche of incorrect information with potential to create rifts between communities, castes and religions. An incident of little significance taking place in an isolated area can easily be showcased as sensational news.

Fact checking

Testing the accuracy of the received information is a hard task. Factual information should reveal details of the author and those responsible for the truthfulness of the content. These should be available for verification by independent questioning. The credibility of information depends on evidence. When there is insufficient material to verify the legitimacy of information, doubts arise about its veracity. The origin and the time of delivery of information received in cyberspace cannot be ascertained easily to make proper conclusions.

Combating the information overflow is a daunting



ILLUSTRATION: SATVIK GADE

task for ordinary citizens. What and what not to trust are never-ending questions that defy easy answers. Faced with a shower of information, the audience at best, ignores it and at worst, believes it all.

Safeguarding information from falling into the wrong hands is becoming increasingly difficult, making it susceptible to modifications. When it comes to evaluating information on social media channels, even the educated are easily duped.

Our education system should be attuned to preventing young minds from

falling prey to this deluge. Regular practice of reading, analysing and evaluating information may be the best defence against sinking into misinformation bogs. It is not unusual to see young minds taking extreme decisions and falling prey to the social media circus.

Students in schools and colleges should be given regular opportunities to think about, and evaluate, information harvested from a variety of sources, to learn to recognise their own vulnerabilities to disinformation, and to look beyond sources that reinforce their beliefs.

Unlike in the case of conventional crimes, the criminal characteristics of those who use communication tools to spread false news are not readily definable. The creators and victims of false news could be from any strata of society. Agonising for a prolonged period of time over doctored news and images will take one nowhere, except succeeding in the author’s intention of causing harm.

The personal information available in different social media and Web platforms are a treasure trove waiting to be harvested for nefarious activities. Children get a rap for sharing too much information online, but adults are no better when it comes to online privacy. When in doubt, share less.

Persons and groups authoring malicious news are not restricted by State or national boundaries. The culprit, concealing his identity, may live in any part of the planet. This makes combating the information deluge a challenging task, both for the police and the public.

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Birds of the same feather, and a flutter from the past

When birding runs in the family, watching winged beauties is not just a pastime

VIJAYA BHARAT

“*Patti*, did you see any bird?” shouted my seven-year-old grandson, Tanuj, as I returned from a morning walk in the Law Garden in Ahmedabad. “Yes, I saw woodpeckers. They were shrieking loudly and spiralled up a tree trunk.”

Tanuj persisted: “What sort of woodpeckers were they?” I mentioned a few features that I had noticed. “Their back was of a golden colour, they had a red crest, black and white stripes on their head.”

Tanuj ran to get his mother’s Salim Ali book. He swiftly turned to the colour plates, and announced that what I saw was a golden-backed woodpecker.

He needed more information to know if it was a common, lesser or greater golden-backed woodpecker. Unable to describe further, I showed him the pictures that

I had taken with my smartphone. Since the middle white stripe had gone all the way to the bird’s belly, he concluded that it was the lesser golden-backed woodpecker.

Tanuj wanted to help me identify the other two as well. He drew side profiles of the head and neck of three woodpeckers, asking me to focus only on those parts. He put a red crest in all of them, but the head and neck differed in the three profiles – four alternate bands of black and white in the common golden-backed, three bands in the lesser golden-backed and a long central white band and three short bands in the greater golden-backed that stopped at the shoulder.

Tanuj asked me to keep the drawing for quick reference. Another day while sitting in the balcony in my fourth floor apartment in Jamshedpur, four small birds alighted on the branches of a



ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R. KUMAR

jamun tree. I had not seen them before. I took a photo with my mobile and send it by WhatsApp to a former classmate in Kerala. I came to know him through an alumni WhatsApp group, and was pleased to know that Sam is a passionate bird photographer and his wife a birdwatcher. He replied immediately, “Blyth’s starling”, and complimented my photograph for its clarity. I have

an advantage as the balcony is at the same level of the tree tops.

After my retirement last year, I set off to fulfil the first item in my bucket list – visit Thattakadu, a bird sanctuary in Ernakulam district of Kerala. Armed with binoculars, a camera and a bird book, I was among eight other birders from North India. The home stay was comfortable, guides were knowledgeable

and we saw many birds at close quarters from the “hides” and at feeding points. Birds on treetops and among thick bushes hopped out in response to bird sounds played from Bluetooth speakers.

We walked through dense forests and saw owls sweeping down at mice kept on platforms. The serious birders had big cameras, two to three feet long, mounted on tripods. They were professionals and businessmen who systematically covered all the birding locations in India by devoting a week once in two months.

Eldhose, owner of the homestay, asked me with reverence about my uncle, K.K. Neelakantan – Induchoodan for him and Neelamani *chithappa* for me. I remember my uncle discussing literature with my grandfather, an English professor, and birds with my father, a Conservator of Forests. *Chithap-*

pa could wear the hats of a professor and a birdwatcher with equal felicity. I had seen his drawings with details of bird beaks and legs and meticulous notes on bird habits. Usually a person of few words, he once came home with great excitement to share owl hoots that he had recorded by hiding in the bushes a whole night. If that was my exposure to birding in the 1960s, now from social media, I learn about my uncle’s great contribution to ornithology in Kerala.

A sense of regret looms large of the missed opportunities to interact with the remarkable person. Perhaps I was naive and birdwatching was arduous. Now as I do armchair birdwatching in my ancestral house, my grandson’s quick guide is tucked in the book *Birds of Kerala* dedicated to his great granduncle.

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The psychological vaccination

We teach our children to strive hard but never make them accept that failure is inevitable for success
SHALINI BHARDWAJ

Giving tolerance its due

Trampling upon the freedom of a person in the name of the collective good is not the way to live
NAVYA REDDY

Creating sustainable communities

It’s not too late to reverse the damage we have wreaked on ecosystems
RAJESH KRISHAN

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Vihari rallies with lower-order to drive India

His determined hundred, along with Ishant's half-century, helps the visitors cross the 400-mark

INDIA IN WI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KINGSTON

Hanuma Vihari scored his maiden century while Ishant Sharma struck his career's first fifty as India was bowled out for 416 in its first innings at tea on the second day of the second cricket Test against the West Indies here on Saturday.

Vihari made a career-best 111 off 225 balls with the help of 16 boundaries to hold India's innings together.

Together with Ishant (57 off 80 balls), Vihari shared 112 runs off 28.3 overs for the eighth wicket to take India to the commanding position.

Rock-solid

While Vihari looked rock-solid, Ishant gave him the perfect support from the other end as the duo frustrated the West Indian bowlers for a long time. The hosts needed 140.1 overs to bowl out the visitors.

Resuming at the overnight score of 264 for five, India lost Rishabh Pant (27) off the opening delivery of the day.

Pant was cleaned up by West Indies skipper Jason



Memorable first: Hanuma Vihari was a picture of poise in notching up his maiden Test century. ■ AP

Holder (four for 62) with an inswinger as the batsman leaned for a drive.

Thereafter, overnight batsman Vihari and new man in Ravindra Jadeja played ac-

cording to the situation to nullify any threat from the West Indies bowlers.

Jadeja played a patient knock of 16 off 69 before he top-edged Rahkeem

Cornwall.

An over later, Vihari got a big reprieve when he was dropped by John Campbell off Cornwall at first slip.

Vihari reached his maiden

Test ton in 200 balls with the help of a single off Roach.

Ishant was not to be left behind as he followed his senior batsman by reaching his maiden Test half-century.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA – 1ST INNINGS
(overnight: 264 for five;
Vihari 42 batting,
Pant 27 batting)

K.L. Rahul c Cornwall b Holder 13 (26b, 2x4), Mayank Agarwal c Cornwall b Holder 55 (127b, 7x4), Cheteshwar Pujara c Brooks b Cornwall 6 (25b), Virat Kohli c Hamilton b Holder 76 (163b, 10x4), Ajinkya Rahane c Hamilton b Roach 24 (55b, 4x4), Hanuma Vihari c Roach b Holder 111 (225b, 16x4), Rishabh Pant b Holder 27 (65b, 2x4, 1x6), Ravindra Jadeja c Bravo b Cornwall 16 (69b, 3x4), Ishant Sharma c Hetmyer b Brathwaite 57 (80b, 7x4), Mohammed Shami c Hamilton b Cornwall 0 (2b), Jasprit Bumrah (not out) 0 (4b); Extras (b-11, lb-19, w-1): 31; Total (in 140.1 overs, at tea): 416.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-32 (Rahul, 6.5 overs), 2-46 (Pujara, 16.5), 3-115 (Mayank, 40.5), 4-164 (Rahane, 59.5), 5-202 (Kohli, 72.1), 6-264 (Pant, 90.1), 7-302 (Jadeja, 110.1), 8-414 (Ishant, 138.4), 9-416 (Shami, 139.2).

WEST INDIES BOWLING
Roach 30-9-77-1, Gabriel 21-4-74-0, Holder 32.1-9-77-5, Cornwall 41-10-105-3, Chase 14-4-45-0, Brathwaite 2-0-8-1.

Lomror, Avesh keep Red in hunt

DULEEP TROPHY

SHREEDUTTA CHIDANANDA
BENGALURU

A defiant 126 (272b, 14x4, 3x6) from Mahipal Lomror and some spectacular late hitting by Avesh Khan frustrated India Green as it pushed for the first-innings lead over India Red on the third day of their Duleep Trophy clash here.

At stumps at the Alur grounds on Saturday, Red was 404 for nine, 36 behind Green's total. Three points from this fixture, which is almost certain to end in a draw on the fourth day, would guarantee Green a spot in the final against Red.

When the ninth Red wicket fell for 368, the end of the innings seemed near. But Avesh had other plans. The Madhya Pradesh fast bowler clubbed five mammoth sixes off Dharmendrasinh Jadeja, including four off one over. Two balls landed outside the compound and were lost.

Avesh was on 31 off eight balls at one point; a measure of calm returned to his batting thereafter and he



Mahipal Lomror.
■ SHREEDUTTA CHIDANANDA

walked back unbeaten on 34 (18b). The last-wicket pair of Avesh and Sandeep Warrier walked back, having added 36 runs (33b).

Drab batting

In the morning, the runs slowed to a crawl, India Red pottering along at two an over during the first hour of play. Karun Nair looked ill-at-ease against Rahul Chahar, who sent down 24 balls to him for only three runs. Karun was stuck on 89 for 12 balls until he finally added a run. But he fell for 90, dragging Ankit Rajpoot onto the stumps. He had been dismissed for 99 in the first innings of the previous game.

Lomror stood firm even as his partners departed. The 19-year-old from Rajasthan looked composed at the crease, having shelved his naturally attacking style for the day. "I'm prepared for every situation; I was just trying to play according to the demands of the team, the match and the pitch," he said. Last season was the young left-hander's best in the Ranji Trophy (708 runs).

Unadkat batted sensibly with Lomror, as the pair added 66 runs for the seventh wicket. Red looked on course to claim the first-innings lead at that stage until Jadeja broke through. Lomror played down the wrong line to a delivery from the left-armed and was caught at slip. Unadkat went minutes later, caught at gully off the same bowler. Red lost three wickets for five runs, and Green looked set for the lead. And Avesh walked in.

The scores: India Green 440 vs India Red 404 for nine in 135 overs (Mahipal Lomror 126, Priyank Panchal 31, Karun Nair 90, K.S. Bharat 38, J. Unadkat 30, Avesh Khan 34 batting, Dharmendrasinh Jadeja four for 125).

Ishan powers India-A to 2-0 lead

Linde's late flourish gives South Africa-A a competitive total

SA-A IN INDIA

M.R. PRAVEEN CHANDRAN
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The visiting South Africa-A still hasn't found a way to rein in the left-handed batsmen from the opposition.

For the second time in the series, the South Africans were tormented by a south-paw as Ishan Kishan's brilliant innings of 55 runs dashed the visitors' hopes for a win in the second unofficial one-dayer at the Sports Hub on Saturday.

Sharp showers in the morning and damp outfield had reduced the contest to a 21-over affair.

Chasing 163 for a win, India stuttered to a two-wicket win with an over to spare and went 2-0 up in the five-match series.

Spot of bother

Ishan walked in when his side was in a spot of bother at 57 for three in the ninth over. The diminutive batsman was on song from the moment he clubbed left-arm



All-out hitting: Ishan Kishan tore the South Africa-A attack apart during his half-century. ■

spinner George Linde over long-on for a massive six.

Ishan didn't have to innovate as the predictable line of attack from South Africa-A bowlers gave his enough scoring opportunities. A couple of swept fours by Ish-

an off Fountin and an 18-run over from a wayward Junior Dala eased the pressure.

Captain Manish Pandey only had to rotate the strike as Ishan tore the attack to shreds. The fourth-wicket stand between Ishan and

'Feels good to get Pujara as my first Test wicket'

IAN
KINGSTON

West Indies all-rounder Rahkeem Cornwall is happy that his first Test wicket was Cheteshwar Pujara on Day 1 of the second and final Test here on Friday.

Cornwall, who at 140 kg became the heaviest cricketer to play international cricket, returned one for 69 from his 27 overs.

"Good feeling to get him (Pujara) as my first Test wicket. It was nothing new to me but it was a good feel-

ing," Cornwall told the media.

"I think the ball came on really nice in the beginning. I have to work hard and put the ball into the right areas," he said.

Cornwall also took a couple of catches in the slips to remove India openers Mayank Agarwal and K.L. Rahul off skipper Jason Holder.

"Our seamers bowled well and when I was asked to bowl, I had to do the same," he said.

'Didn't expect Dhoni to be picked for SA series'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Former India captain Sourav Ganguly didn't expect M.S. Dhoni to be "picked" for the upcoming T20Is against South Africa and said the team management is absolutely right in persisting with young Rishabh Pant.

"No, I didn't expect him to be picked for this series (against South Africa)," Ganguly replied when asked if

he was surprised with Dhoni's omission even though the official reason is his "unavailability," said Ganguly.

"You could make out from West Indies (T20) series, that they (team management) wanted to give Rishabh a chance. They want to pursue with him, which is rightly so. Because when MS came in young, he was also persisted with," said Dhoni's first international captain.

Manish added 58 runs which brought the target within reach.

Mid-innings slump

However, both Manish and Ishan perished while trying to play the big shots. India-A suffered a mid-innings slump when it lost three wickets for four runs but Krunal Pandey remained unbeaten with 23 to guide the team home.

Earlier, put in to bat, the South African innings meandered along until it was given a late impetus by George Linde, who biffed a 25-ball, unbeaten 52 to take his side to a competitive total.

The highlight of Linde's knock was the towering five sixes he hit. Linde and Klaasen (31) added 52 for the fifth wicket and South African-A amassed 72 runs in the last six overs to finish strongly.

However, the total proved to be inadequate in the end.

The scores (match reduced to 21 overs):

South Africa-A: Janneman Malan run out 6, Reeza Hendricks c Gill b Khaleel Ahmed 1, Temba Bavuma c Gaikwad b Chahal 40,

Khaya Zondo b Axar 34, Heinrich Klaasen c Chahal 31, George Linde (not out) 52, Marco Jansen (not out) 5; Extras (w-1, nb-2): 3. Total (for five wkts. in 21 overs): 152

Fall of wickets: 1-7, 2-15, 3-63, 4-75, 5-127.

India-A bowling: Deepak Chahar 4-0-30-1, Khaleel Ahmed 4-0-38-1, Shardul Thakur 4-0-33-0, Yuzvendra Chahal 3-0-22-1, Axar Patel 3-0-19-1, Krunal Pandya 3-0-22-0.

India-A: Ruturaj Gaikwad c Malan b Beuran Hendricks 1, Shubman Gill c Reeza Hendricks b Fortuin 21, Anmolpreet Singh c Dala b George Linde 30, Manish Pandey c Reeza Hendricks b Marco Jansen 13, Ishan Kishan c Malan b Nortje 55, Krunal Pandey (not out) 23, Axar Patel c Malan b Junior Dala, Deepak Chahal c Klaasen b Junior Dala 0, Shardul Thakur run out 2, Yuzvendra Chahal not out 1; Extras (b-2, lb-1, w-2, nb-2): 7; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 163.

Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-52, 3-57, 4-115, 5-131, 6-157, 7-157, 8-161.

South Africa-A bowling: Bjorn Fortuin 4-0-27-1, Beuran Hendricks 3-0-20-1, Anrich Nortje 4-0-40-1, George Linde 3-0-21-1, Junior Dala 3-0-25-2, Marco Jansen 3-0-27-1.

Djokovic rolls on, Nishikori crashes out

Serena crushes 44th-ranked Czech Karolina Muchova in 74 minutes

US OPEN

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
NEW YORK

Top-ranked defending champion Novak Djokovic rolled into the US Open fourth round on Friday while Serena Williams cruised into the last 16 and Kei Nishikori was eliminated.

Djokovic, champion in four of the past five Slams and 16 overall, was less bothered by left shoulder pain that nagged him in the second round in defeating 111th-ranked American Denis Kudla 6-3, 6-4, 6-2.

"That I managed to play almost pain-free, that's a big improvement from last match obviously," Djokovic said. "I didn't know how my body would react. That was nice."

Djokovic, who needed treatment throughout his second-round triumph, skipped practice Thursday in favor of shoulder treatment. The 32-year-old Serbian, a three-time US Open winner, booked a Sunday showdown with three-time Slam winner Stan Wawrinka, the Swiss 23rd seed who eliminated Italian lucky loser Paolo Lorenzi 6-4, 7-6(9), 7-6(4).

"There's something with him that when I get into my best game, I know that it's going to have some big rallies



Powering through: Alex de Minaur, on his deepest Grand Slam run, beat Kei Nishikori for his first victory over a top-10 player in 12 tries. ■ AP

and I'm going to play good tennis," Wawrinka said.

De Minaur causes upset Williams continued her quest for a 24th career Grand Slam title to equal Margaret Court's all-time record by crushing 44th-ranked Czech Karolina Muchova 6-3, 6-2 in 74 minutes. "I had a lot of intensity today, which is really good for me," said Williams, whose next opponent is Croatian 22nd seed Petra Martic.

The 37-year-old American, a six-time US Open champion, last won a Slam at the 2017 Australian Open and

hasn't won the US Open since 2014.

Japanese seventh seed Nishikori, the 2014 US Open runner-up, lost to Australia's

Alex de Minaur 6-2, 6-4, 2-6, 6-3.

The 20-year-old Aussie, on his deepest Grand Slam run, took his first victory ov-

IMPORTANT RESULTS

Men: Third round: 1-Novak Djokovic (Srb) bt Denis Kudla (USA) 6-3, 6-4, 6-2; 23-Stan Wawrinka (Sui) bt Paolo Lorenzi (Ita) 6-4, 7-6(9), 7-6(4); Dominik Koepfer (Ger) bt 17-Nikoloz Basilashvili (Geo) 6-3, 7-6(5), 4-6, 6-1; 5-Daniil Medvedev (Rus) bt Feliciano Lopez (Esp) 7-6(1), 4-6, 7-6(7), 6-4; 15-David Goffin (Bel) bt Pablo Carreno Busta (Esp) 7-6(5), 7-6(9), 7-5; Grigor Dimitrov (Bul) bt Kamil Majchrzak (Pol) 7-5, 7-6(8), 6-2.

Doubles: Second round: Denis Shapovalov (Can) & Rohan Bopanna bt Andreas Seppi (Ita) & Marco Cecchinato (Ita) ret'd.

Women: Third round: 23-Donna Vekic (Cro) bt Yulia Putintseva (Kaz) 6-4, 6-1; 26-Julia Gorges (Ger) bt 7-Kiki Bertens (Ned) 6-2, 6-3; Taylor Townsend (USA) bt Sorana Cirstea (Rou) 7-5, 6-2; 15-Bianca Andreescu (Can) bt 19-Caroline Wozniacki (Den)

er a top-10 foe in 12 tries.

"This is where I feel like my game's at. I want to be pushing second weeks of Grand Slams and putting myself out there. So very happy," De Minaur said. "Hopefully I can just keep it rolling."

De Minaur faces Bulgaria's Grigor Dimitrov next.

Canadian 15th seed Bianca Andreescu advanced Danish 19th seed Caroline Wozniacki 6-4, 6-4.

The 19-year-old won the battle of the top-rated players remaining in her quarter of the draw after exits by Simona Halep and Petra Kvitova to book a last-16 date with US qualifier Taylor Townsend.

Also advancing was Ukrainian fifth seed and Wimbledon semifinalist Elina Svitolina, who next faces US 10th seed Madison Keys, a 6-3, 7-5 winner over Sofia Kenin.

6-4, 6-4; 25-Elise Mertens (Bel) bt Andrea Petkovic (Ger) 6-3, 6-3.

5-Elina Svitolina (Ukr) bt 32-Dayana Yastremska (Ukr) 6-2, 6-0; 10-Madison Keys (USA) bt 20-Sofia Kenin (USA) 6-3, 7-5; 16-Johanna Konta (GBR) bt 33-Zhang Shuai (Chn) 6-2, 6-3; 8-Serena Williams (USA) bt Karolina Muchova (Cze) 6-3, 6-2; 18-Wang Qiang (Chn) bt Fiona Ferro (Fra) 7-6(1), 6-3.

Bengaluru Bulls' plans fail at home



On top of his game: Sachin collected five points in all, including two on a do-or-die raid, to help the visitors pull away. ■ K. MURALI KUMAR

PKL

N. SUDARSHAN
BENGALURU

Defending champion Bengaluru Bulls' return to the city didn't go as planned as it fell to a 32-23 loss to Gujarat Fortune Giants in the Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) at the Sree Kanteerava Indoor Stadium on Saturday.

The match appeared to be on the knife's edge with Gujarat leading just 24-22 with four minutes to go. But on a do-or-die raid, Sachin collected two points to help the visitors pull away before a second all out hastened the Bulls' end. The home side will need to come up with a

much better effort against Tamil Thalaivas on Sunday.

Star raider Pawan Kumar Sehrawat, nursing an ankle strain, was off colour, accumulating only three points. Skipper Rohit Kumar didn't fare any better as his side fell to its fifth defeat in seven matches.

Only defenders Saurabh Nandal (8 points) and Mahender Singh (4) gave decent accounts of themselves, instrumental as they were in effecting two super tackles to narrow the score to 21-18 after their opponents had surged ahead 18-12.

Gujarat's on the other hand was a team effort; Sachin and G.B. More topped with five points and were

closely followed by Parvesh Bhainswal and Rohit Gulia on four apiece.

"It would have helped if we had a good third raider," said Rohit after the loss. "But it wasn't like Gujarat was raiding well. Both teams' defence was good. One lapse at the end proved costly."

Huge win for U Mumbai

In the day's second tie, U Mumbai thrashed Jaipur Pink Panthers 47-21. Abhishek Singh top-scored with 13 points, including a super raid right at the end, taking out four players.

The results: Bengaluru Bulls 23 lost to Gujarat Fortune Giants 32; U Mumbai 47 bt Jaipur Pink Panthers 21.

TV PICKS

West Indies vs India: 2nd Test, day 3, Sony Ten 1 & 3 (SD & HD), 8 p.m.
Sri Lanka vs New Zealand: 1st T20I, Sony Six (SD & HD), 6.40 p.m.
Belgian GP: Main race, SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 6.35 p.m.
Premier League: SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 6.15 p.m., 8.40 p.m.
Serie A: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 9.30 p.m.
US Open: SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 11 p.m. SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 8.40 p.m.
PKL: Star Sports 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 7.15 p.m. & 8.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Shubhankar lies third, aims for PGA Tour card
NEWBURGH (USA)
Shubhankar Sharma shot a superb six-under 66, laced with eight birdies, to be tied third at the end of the first day of the Korn Ferry Tour Championship here on Friday. It is his last chance to grab a PGA Tour card and will need a sole sixth place to join Anirban Lahiri, who has already assured himself a card. Lahiri had to withdraw and rush home following the news of Hurricane Dorian's expected landfall at Palm Beach, Florida on Tuesday. Chris Baker with nine-under 63 was in sole lead. PTI



Perez inks three-year deal with Racing Point
FRANCORCHAMPS
Sergio Perez has signed a three-year contract with Racing Point, the Formula One team announced on Friday after opening practice at the Belgian Grand Prix. The deal will keep Mexican Perez with Racing Point until the end of 2022. "We know Sergio very well and it's great to confirm him on a long-term deal," said Racing Point boss Otmar Szafnauer. Perez will have Canadian Lance Stroll, 20, whose father Lawrence led the consortium that took over the former Force India outfit last year, as teammate. AFP



Monreal leaves Arsenal for Real Sociedad
MADRID
Nacho Monreal has left Arsenal for Real Sociedad, the clubs announced on Saturday. The left-back, a Spanish international, has signed until the end of next season. Monreal, 33, returns to the Spanish League six years after leaving Malaga for Arsenal in 2013. The veteran, who can also play centre-back, brings "experience, character and performance" to a young squad, said Real Sociedad. Monreal made 251 appearances for Arsenal, scoring 10 goals. He won three FA Cups and helped the Gunners to reach the final of last season's Europa League. AFP

National Games dates out, finally

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI
The much-delayed 36th National Games will be staged in Goa from October 20 to November 4 next year, the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) said here on Saturday.
The IOA finalised the dates during its meeting with the Goan delegation here on Saturday.
"It was finalised at a meeting here on Saturday that the National Games will be held in October-November next year," said IOA secretary-general Rajeev Mehta.

Less-fancied Sohil springs a surprise

Steals the thunder from Chennai stars Vishnu Prasad and defending champion Raghul

MOTORSPORTS

RAYAN ROZARIO
COIMBATORE

It was expected to be a show-down between Chennai stars Vishnu Prasad and defending champion Raghul Rangasamy.

But, Sohil Shah, a young boy from Bengaluru, took everybody by surprise winning the premier FLGB4 opening race in the second round of the JK Tyre-FMSCI National racing championship at the Kari Motor Speedway here on Saturday.

The race went down to the wire with Vishnu, starting at P4, moving ahead of privateers Manav Dougall and Akshay Kapoor from Delhi by the first corner.

Clever move
But, even before he could hang on to it, Kerala's T.S. Diljith of Dark Don Racing had made a clever move to jump into the lead.

He fought hard from there, but Sohil and Vishnu



Tense battle: Sohil Shah (24), T.S. Diljith and Vishnu Prasad locked in a close fight for lead in the Formula LGB4 race. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

(both MSport) kept breathing all the action from behind, waited for the right opportunity to sneak in.

He found it quite soon and, there was no turning back from there. Even as the 18-year-old

was whistling his way merrily in the front, Diljith and Vishnu went neck and neck all the way to finish second and third respectively.

Major mistake
"My major mistake used to be the race starts and me not keeping a cool head. But, this time around, I analysed the situation and put in a bit more to win the race. " Luckily for me, I enjoyed

a good pace and that helped me pull past the rest with ease," said Sohil.

The race was delayed for over two hours due to technical safety regulations but it was worth the wait such as the excitement that it generated.

In the JK Tyre Suzuki Gixxer Cup, Pune's Tanay Gaikwad converted his pole position to a comfortable victory, while the Novice Cup saw

Shivpal, Vipin and Annu back in form

Hima wins 100m in 11.74s

ATHLETICS

SPORTS BUREAU
VLASIM (CZECH REPUBLIC)

Returning to competition after more than a month's break, javelin thrower Shivpal Singh was back in the 80m range at the Podblanicka Tretra athletics meet here on Friday.

The Asian silver medalist topped the event with a third-round effort of 81.36m while his compatriot Vipin Kasana was second with

80.13m. Meanwhile, Asian women's javelin throw silver medalist Annu Rani was also back in the 60m range, finishing second with 60.87m, behind Japan's Haruka Kitaguchi, the World University Games silver medalist and former under-18 World champion, who won with 61.94m.

After being consistent around 60m during the first half of the year, Rani's form had dipped and at her last

meet on July 9 she had slumped to 54.54m and had been away from competition for nearly 50 days before Friday's event.

Shivpal, who won the Doha Asian silver in April with a personal best 86.23m, had been on a slide after that with a 76.90m at his last meet on July 24.

On Friday, he had three throws over 80m.

"All my (legal) throws were over 80m, I'm very happy with that. I thought of

going for the Olympic qualification mark (85m) but the ground was a bit small for my run-up," Shivpal told *The Hindu* from the Czech Republic on Saturday.

"My run-up is 35m but here they had space for only 30m. So, we may be doing one more competition tomorrow."

Meanwhile, under-20 World women's 400m champion Hima Das, running the 100m for the first time this year, won the event in 11.74s.

India emerges champion

Striker Sridarth scores a hat-trick

SAFF U-15 FOOTBALL

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Striker Sridarth Nongmeikapam scored a hat-trick as India routed Nepal 7-0 in the final of the SAFF under-15 football championship at the Kalyani Stadium on Saturday.

India's third title victory made it the most successful side in the history of event. It had claimed the crown in 2013 and 2017 in Nepal.

India remained unbeaten and scored 28 goals without conceding any in five matches. The host led by only one goal – thanks to Maheson Singh's excellent 15th minute strike – for most part of the first half.

Amandeep and Sibajit Singh shot home close to the break to help India take a 3-0

lead at half-time.

Nongmeikapam stole the limelight in the second-half. He pounced on a chance inside the box to score his first in the 51st minute. After Himanshu Jangra's 65th minute goal, Nongmeikapam took a through ball to dodge the Nepal goalkeeper and score his second. He completed his hat-trick from a low cross in the 80th minute.

Jangra bagged the highest-scorer award with seven goals.

India will participate in the AFC under-16 championships 2020 qualifiers, scheduled from September 18 to 22. India is in Group-B with host Uzbekistan, Bahrain and Turkmenistan.

The result: India 7 (Maheson 15, Amandeep 42, Sibajit 45, Sridarth 51, 76, 80, Jangra 65) bt Nepal 0.

IOC beats Indian Army

MURUGAPPA HOCKEY

K. KEERTHIVASAN
CHENNAI

Defending champion Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) was pushed to the limits by a resolute Indian Army in its first Group-A match of the MCC-Murugappa Gold Cup All-India hockey tournament here on Saturday. However, like a true champion, IOC scripted a well-deserved 3-2 victory.

Earlier, Punjab National Bank (PNB) outwitted Indian Air Force 2-1 in Group-A before Punjab and Sind Bank (PSB) produced a fine display to hold National champion Indian Railways to a 1-1 draw in Group-B.

Army had probably the best chance in the third quarter but Sanjay Toppo missed a sitter in front of an open goal.

Immediately, the army men earned a stroke but this time Chandan Aind's shot was saved by IOC 'keeper Pankaj Rajak.

Army finally drew level again through Sukhdeep Singh off a penalty corner.

Gurjinder struck the winner from the team's sixth corner to give IOC a morale-boosting win.

Army can take heart from the fact that its custodian Akash Chikte effected several fine saves, off penalty corner shots from V.R. Raghunath and Gurjinder.

The results: **Group-A:** IOC 3 (Armaan Qureshi 19, Affan Yousuf 32, Gurjinder Singh 56) bt Indian Army 2 (Jitender Rathee 15, Sukhdeep Singh 53); PNB 2 (Satender Dalal 14, Sukhjeet Singh 32) bt IAF 1 (Ajit Pandit 40).

Group-B: PSB 1 (Gaganpreet Singh 35) drew with Railways 1 (P.R. Aiyappa 38).

Jehan bags pole

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SPA FRANCORCHAMPS (BELGIUM)

Jehan Daruvala bagged a sensational pole position at the famed Spa Francorchamps circuit in the FIA F3 Championship, part of the Belgian F1 Grand Prix weekend.

Crucially for the Indian, it adds four points to his tally, as he chases Russian Robert Schwartzman and Juri Vips from Estonia, in the championship battle.

The ultra-competitive nature of the FIA F3 championship has seen a wide range of drivers performing through the season and Jehan was sixth different pole sitter in the six rounds of the season so far.

The moment qualifying started Pedro Piquet was on provisional pole.

Jehan's quick laps were only good enough for seventh. Jehan was the slowest of the top eleven on the straights at that time and when he pulled into the pits, the team altered the set-up reducing Jehan's downforce.

All drivers had changed tyres and were back on



Jehan Daruvala. ■FILE PHOTO

track. The changes to his car suited Jehan when he returned to track and he immediately put in his personal fastest in sector 1.

Sector 2 was where Jehan was sensational, posting a time faster than everyone else. A quick sector 3 sealed pole for Jehan with a lap-time of 2:05.125. Such was Jehan's pace that he managed to have the highest lap-time margin for pole the entire season.

Piquet was second followed immediately by Tsunoda & Championship leader Shwartzman, Jehan will start on pole for Race 1 while the top 8 in Race 1 will be reversed for the start of Race 2.

Sanya prevails in a dramatic climax

Yash rallies to down Neel

SQUASH

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GREATER NOIDA

Top seed Sanya Vats was teased remarkably, but bounced back from an indifferent start like a wounded tigress, and pulled through in a dramatic climax against Yoshna Singh 3-11, 11-1, 11-7, 13-11 in the under-19 girls final of the HCL 11th Indian Open junior squash championship at the Jaypee Greens Sports Complex on Saturday.

The stout left-hander, Sanya was able to assert as to why she was touted as the best junior in the country with a vibrant game and matching athleticism against an opponent who had beaten her once before, in three meetings.

In a memorable climax, in which Yoshna lost the momentum from being up 9-6 in the fourth game, but

saved two championship points, Sanya was quite sharp to find an answer for everything that was thrown at her.

Eventually, Yoshna hit the tin on the third championship point, and flung her racquet in disgust, before the two players hugged each other for producing such a vibrant match.

In the boys' under-19 final, Neel Joshi had a great start, as he saved a game-point and converted his third to pocket the first game against top seed Yash Fadte.

However, Yash stepped up his game to scotch all hopes of Neel, who charged at him physically in retaliation for having been "pushed hard" during a rally, which fetched a point penalty from the umpire, in the second game.

In the girls' under-17 final, Vharshamithraa Dinesh of Malaysia handled top seed Ananya Dabke with poise to



Champions: Winners and runners-up of the Indian Open junior squash championship. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Salute to a centurion

VINAYAK M. ZODGE
PUNE

The Royal Western India Turf Club Ltd. (RWITC) felicitated 101-year-old race-goer Tommy Rozario here on Saturday.

Rozario was born in the coastal town of Nagappattinam (Tamil Nadu) on Ja-

nuary 22, 1918. Rozario was a Merchant Navy Officer, Captain (TEM) with the Scindia Steam Navigation Company during World War II. His ship, the SS Jalara Rajan, was sunk by a Japanese submarine in February 1942.

Tommy sailed one of the ship's lifeboats full of

survivors for almost 800 miles for two weeks before landing on the Indonesian island of Sumatra. Rozario has been an avid racegoer from the 1940s, both live and off course. He was also a regular at the Mahalaxmi Race Course since 1960 before moving to Pune in 1992.



For the love of racing: K.N. Dhunjibhoy presents a memento to Tommy Rozario. Rozario's daughter Michelle looks on. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sasi Kumar in line for double

SPORTS BUREAU
BAOTOU (CHINA)

Sasi Kumar Mukund sustained his superb form and made the final with a 7-5, 6-3 victory over eighth seed Tung-Lin Wu of Chinese Taipei in the \$54,160 Challenger tennis tournament here on Saturday.

In the final, Mukund will face top seed James Duckworth of Australia.

There were more fireworks in store in the day, as Sasi Kumar and Teymuraz Gabashvili of Russia knocked out the top seeds Goncalo Oliveira and Luke Saville 13-11 in the super tie-break in the doubles semifinals. In the final, the duo will face the Korean second seeds Nam Ji Sung and Song Min-Kyu.

The results: **\$54,160 Challenger, Baotou, China: Semifinals:** Sasi Kumar Mukund bt Tung-Lin Wu (Tpe) 7-5, 6-3. **Doubles:** Teymuraz Gabashvili (Rus) & Sasi Kumar Mukund bt Goncalo Oliveira (Por) & Luke Saville (Aus) 6-3, 3-6, [13-11].

Liverpool back on top

Leicester moves up to third; United and Chelsea lose further ground

EURO LEAGUES

AGENCIES
MANCHESTER

Liverpool recorded a club record 13th consecutive Premier League win to move back to the top of the table, courtesy a 3-0 victory at Burnley on Saturday.

Two goals in four first-half minutes swung the game decisively in the visitors' favour as Chris Wood deflected Trent Alexander-Arnold's cross into his own net before Sadio Mane's cool finish on the counter-attack doubled Liverpool's advantage.

Roberto Firmino then rounded off the scoring 10 minutes from time as the Reds maintained their 100 per cent start to the season after four games. Victory took the European champion back two points clear of Manchester City, which was also in dominant form to beat Brighton 4-0.

Fati's feat
Barcelona's 16-year-old forward Ansu Fati became the



Go-to man: Manchester City's Sergio Aguero was on fire, scoring two goals. ■ REUTERS

youngest ever player to score a league goal for the club when he netted an equaliser for the La Liga champion at Osasuna on Saturday.

Important results: EPL: Southampton 1 (Vestergaard 58) drew with Manchester United 1

(James 10); Chelsea 2 (Abraham 19, 43) drew with Sheffield United 2 (Robinson 46, Zouma 89-og); Burnley 0 lost to Liverpool 3 (Wood 33-og, Mane 37, Firmino 80); Manchester City 4 (de Bruyne 2, Aguero 42, 55, B. Silva 79) bt Brighton 0.

La Liga: Osasuna 2 (Torres 7,

81-pen) drew with Barcelona 2 (Fati 51, Arthur 64).

Serie A: AC Milan 1 (Calhanoglu 12) bt Brescia 0.

Bundesliga: Bayern Munich 6 (Pavard 36, Alaba 45, Perisic 54, Coman 64, Lewandowski 78, Davies 80) bt Mainz 1 (Boetius 6).

Leclerc clinches pole in style

Vettel completes Ferrari front-row lock out; Hamilton crashes during P3

BELGIAN GP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS

Charles Leclerc claimed pole position for Sunday's Belgian Grand Prix with a dazzling lap in a dramatic qualifying session on Saturday as Ferrari delivered a dominant front row lockout.

The Monegasque, who is seeking his maiden victory in Formula One, clocked a fastest lap in one minute 42.519 seconds. He was 0.748s clear of Ferrari teammate Sebastian Vettel.



Make that three! Charles Leclerc bagged his third pole of the season, upstaging Vettel and Hamilton. ■ GETTY IMAGES

It was his third pole of the season, but he goes into the race seeking to claim his

maiden victory. Defending five-time World champion and series leader

Lewis Hamilton was third for Mercedes ahead of teammate Valtteri Bottas, Max Verstappen, who was fifth for Red Bull, and Daniel Ricciardo of Renault.

The starting grid:

Front row: Leclerc and Vettel; **Second row:** Hamilton and Bottas; **Third row:** Verstappen and Ricciardo.

Fourth row: Hulkenberg and Raikonen; **Fifth row:** Perez and Magnussen; **Sixth row:** Grosjean and Norris.

Seventh row: Stroll and Albon; **Eighth row:** Giovinazzi and Gasly; **Ninth row:** Sainz and Kvyat; **Tenth row:** Russell and Kubica.

Kohli improving as captain: Ganguly

ANANT KAUR
NEW DELHI

"Sports is about fitness," says former India captain Sourav Ganguly.

He was speaking at the fifth Progressive Teacher Conclave here on Saturday, he also revealed the reason he took up cricket. "To escape studies."

On the surge of champions in Indian sports, Ganguly observed, "India has produced champions in many sports, like P.V. Sindhu, Gopi Chand, Leander Paes, Mary Kom, Saina Nehwal, Dipa Karmakar, Milkha Singh and Jhulan Goswami.

Touching on the importance of role models, Ganguly said, "I grew up watching Kapil Dev and Sunil Gavaskar."



Sourav Ganguly. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Today's generation has the likes of M.S. Dhoni and Virat Kohli, he said. He described six-time

World boxing champion Mary Kom as an unbelievable boxer and champion.

On the ongoing Test series in the West Indies, Ganguly said he was surprised at the host putting the opposition in.

He said Rishabh Pant would need time to step into Dhoni's shoes. "Rishabh's Test record is phenomenal. He is special as well," he said.

Ganguly concluded with a pat for Virat Kohli.

"Virat is getting better and better. He was heavily criticised in the IPL (for RCB) but he captained well in the World Cup. It's unfortunate that India lost in the semifinals. But I think Virat has progressed a lot."

AICF's player-friendly claim questioned

RAKESH RAO
NEW DELHI

The All India Chess Federation (AICF) is grappling with more court cases than ever before. As if that was not enough, its recent claim of being pro-players has come under a scathing attack.

A day after the AICF backed GM Dibyendu Barua's allegations of wrongdoing by the Bengal Chess Association, Railway player Gurpreet Pal Singh has challenged the governing body of the sport in the country. Gurpreet has spearheaded players' legal battle with the AICF since 2011 in seeking justice for over 50 players whose international rating was taken away by FIDE at the behest of the AICF.

Strong reaction

He has reacted strongly to AICF's statement on Friday that said, "No player can be stopped from playing chess. This is the motto of AICF."

Gurpreet, a former National junior champion, said, "AICF is saying something which it does not practice. We, the aggrieved

players, battled for over eight years before FIDE saw sense in our argument and restored our rating by brushing aside the objections of AICF. Even now, the AICF is insisting on apology before registering us as players. So many players have suffered in silence since 2011 after being denied opportunities to play in tournaments. Our plight exposes AICF's lies."

Continuing with his tirade, Gurpreet said, "The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has fined AICF for its anti-competitive practices.

"Even after FIDE restored our ratings, we players continue to fight AICF for our right to play chess freely. Indeed, if AICF was so player-friendly, why did it fight a legal battle against players for eight years?"

He made an appeal to the Union Sports Minister Kiran Rijju to look into the issues of conflict of interest involving the AICF office-bearers and ensure "the CCI order was implemented in the true spirit for the benefit of the suffering players".

Smalling goes to Roma

ROME: Manchester United defender Chris Smalling has signed a year-long loan deal with Roma for €3 million, the Serie A club confirmed on Friday.

Smalling has 31 caps for England.

Unmukt to lead Uttarakhand

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Unmukt Chand will lead Uttarakhand in the Ranji Trophy this season. The 26-year-old strokeplayer secured his No Objection Certificate from his parent State, Delhi, on Saturday.

He made his debut in 2010 against Gujarat at 17 with the cricket fraternity in the Capital raving about his talent. He made a 35 in his first match for Delhi and went on to play another 59, the last one coming in 2017 at Alur against Karnataka.

Unmukt made a huge impact in 2012 when he led India to title-triumph in the World Cup (under-19) with a sensational innings of 111

against host Australia in the final. Former players hailed Unmukt's performance and he was singled out as a player with a great future.

Having hit a super 151 against Railways in only his fourth Ranji Trophy match, Unmukt came to command a place in the Delhi team as an aggressive opening batsman. He crafted seven more First Class centuries but consistency remained a challenge as Unmukt was considered a batsman with a lot of responsibility at the top.

Losing his place in the Delhi team in 2017 hurt his career. "I never expected I would be dropped. I had served Delhi to the best of my capacity. But the selec-

Yashaswini books berth

SHOOTING WC

PTI/ SPORTS BUREAU
RIO DE JANEIRO

Yashaswini Singh Deswal secured India's ninth Olympic quota in shooting after she fired her way to the women's 10m air pistol gold in the ISSF World Cup on Saturday.

The 22-year-old former junior world champion recorded 236.7 in the final to pip Ukraine's Olena Kostevych (234.8) and Serbia's Jasmina Milavonovic (215.7).

Yashaswini had also topped qualification with 582. Annu Raj Singh (572) and Shweta Singh (568) bowed out in the qualification phase while Manu Bhaker shot an impressive 580 in the MQS section.

Earlier, Deepak Kumar missed the quota agonisingly in men's air rifle, finishing seventh in the final. Gaayathri Nithyanandam failed to cross the hurdle in the elimination round of the women's rifle 3-position.

It was a commendable effort by Deepak squeezed his way into the final 0.2 point ahead of compatriot Yash Vardhan. However, with only three eligible for the quota among the eight finalists, Deepak's seventh place finish wasn't enough.

Olympic quota went to Patrik Jany of Slovakia and Dane Sampson of Australia who finished third and fourth.

In women's rifle 3-position, Tejaswini Sawant, who shot 1172 in the elimination round, could muster only 1158 in the qualification stage. Kajal Saini shot 1167 in qualification after 1166 in the elimination round. In men's 25-metre rapid fire pistol, Anish Bhanwala had shot 291 out of 300 in the first stage, whereas Anhad Jawanda managed only 281.

Richa keeps winning; Sajan dominates

Karnataka sets mixed 4x50m relay meet record



A close race: Veteran Richa Mishra, right, was pushed hard by 16-year-old Kenisha Gupta before winning the women's 200m individual medley. ■ A.M.FARUQUI

NATIONAL SWIMMING

STAN RAYAN
BHOPAL

"Is that real," a Bengaluru swimmer asked as the time-board flashed 2:18.46s for Richa Mishra's gold-winning moment in the women's 200m individual medley at the 73rd Glenmark National senior swimming championships here on Saturday.

That was more than five seconds faster than Richa's national record of 2:23.62, set nine years ago, and she is now 36.

"Yes, I was surprised too," said the Delhi girl, representing Police here, at the Prakash Tarun Pushkar pool. Well, it wasn't real, it was just the clock playing tricks for the official time, which came a few minutes later, gave Richa's winning time as 2:24.70.

Richa was pushed hard by Maharashtra's 16-year-old Kenisha Gupta, who trains under Nihar Ameen in Bengaluru, and the senior was quite impressed.

"She has progressed from last year's 2:27 to 2:25 now, it's really amazing," she said. Richa, a former international who has been swim-

ming at the national level for nearly 25 years, hinted this could be her last National.

"I think this is going to be my last, I'm honestly tired. But if I stop this, this routine of getting up at 3.45 a.m. and going to the pool, I might go into depression," said Richa who has been a gold medalist in the medley event regularly for nearly 15 years.

"If I leave swimming, what will I do, I don't know. I might come next year and do only one event, I'm 36, it's tough."

Hot duel

The men's 200 medley lit up the day too with a hot duel between the seasoned Sajan Prakash, Karnataka's Srihari Nataraj and S. Siva. Sajan had taken a healthy lead by the halfway mark and carried it to the finish while Srihari made his move and sneaked past his teammate near the end for the silver. Sajan was close to his national record of 2:05.83, clocking 2:05.89.

"I could have made it faster but I slipped during the turn at the end of the second leg and start of the third," said the 25-year-old Police swimmer. That time also helped Sajan qualify for next month's Asian age-group

meet in Bengaluru (qualification mark 2:06.22).

On top

The day's lone meet record came in the mixed 4x50m relay where Karnataka's Srihari, S.P. Likith, Suvana C. Baskar and Deeksha Ramesh clocked 1:50.65 to better Railways' time of 1:51.06.

The results (all finals):

Men, 400m freestyle: 1. Kushagra Rawat (Del) 3:56.95s, 2. A.S. Anand (Ser) 4:01.92, 3. Aaron Fernandes (Mah) 4:04.71; **50m breaststroke:** 1. S.P. Likith (Kar) 28.56s, 2. Ansh Arora (UP) 29.38, 3. S. Danush (TN) 29.57; **200m medley:** 1. Sajan Prakash (Pol) 2:05.89s, 2. Srihari Nataraj (Kar) 2:06.46, 3. S. Siva (Kar) 2:06.69; **4x200m freestyle relay:** 1. Karnataka (7:46.04s), 2. Services (7:49.31), 3. Railway (7:53.52).

Women, 400m freestyle: 1. Shivani Kataria (Har) 4:27.31s, 2. Shivangi Sarma (Asm) 4:30.55, 3. Khushi Dinesh (Kar) 4:30.80; **50m breaststroke:** 1. A.V. Jayaveena (TN) 33.86s, 2. Chahat Arora (Pun) 34.01, 3. Annie Jain (MP) 34.30; **200m medley:** 1. Richa Mishra (Pol) 2:24.70s, 2. Kenisha Gupta (Mah) 2:25.31, 3. Apeksha Fernandes (Mah) 2:26.53.

Mixed 4x50m medley relay: 1. Karnataka (1:50.65s NMR, OR 1:51.06), 2. Maharashtra (1:52.82), 3. Railway (1:54.00).

‘Something magical happened’

Nandan recalls GoSports Foundation's remarkable journey

RECOGNITION

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI

When one sets out to do something constructive for Indian sports, there are people jumping in to support and join the cause.

That has been the story of GoSports Foundation that was started in 2008 to back the players from less known sports and convert them into achievers.

It is fitting to look into the past decade when GoSports gained so much momentum that it ended up being bestowed with the Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar by the President, Ram Nath Kovind, at the Arjuna awards function at the Rashtrapati Bhawan.

A struggle

It was a struggle for the first few years to raise funds, as much as to break the common-held belief that "we do not have sports talent, sports culture... we are good with skill but not strength and endurance."

The approach was to stay clear of cricket, with the understanding of the limitations of working with team sports. It was decided to identify players who deserved support and then look for money to fund them. This was in the year 2012. "Something magical happened," recalled Nandan Kamath, the Managing Trustee of GoSports, who received the award from the President.

The magic happened through a sports memorabilia auction. Former India captain Rahul Dravid gave an autographed bat and his Test jersey. Rohan Bopanna met Roger Federer on the tour and took a signed racquet from him.

"The auction was a success beyond our dreams. We sold many different pieces of memorabilia that had all been donated to us. Still, the proceeds from the auction of



Memorable moment: Nandan Kamath, Managing Trustee of GoSports, receives the Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar from President Ram Nath Kovind. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

■ The magic happened through a sports memorabilia auction. Former India captain Rahul Dravid gave an autographed bat and his Test jersey. Rohan Bopanna met Roger Federer on the tour and took a signed racquet from him

Dravid and Federer memorabilia alone funded our scholarship programme for the next year or two," recalled Nandan.

Badminton ace K. Srikanth, who went on to become the World No. 1, was one of the early athletes to be supported, when he was ranked 381st. His first international tournament was funded by GoSports.

David joined the fold; so did the former World and Olympic champion Abhinav Bindra, apart from the former All England Champion and the badminton guru, P. Gopi Chand, as advisors, taking the movement to a different level.

Dipa, Deepa in list

Gymnast Dipa Karmakar, who won the imagination of the entire nation with her performance in the Rio Olympics (she finished

fourth), was one of the athletes supported by the organisation, which also took special interest in supporting para athletes, including Deepa Malik.

The organisation started focusing on athlete education and coaches' development. In course of time, John Gloster joined as head of sports science, and set up a team of experts to back the athletes whenever required. As a lawyer, Nandan strengthened Sports Law and Policy Centre.

While celebrating its 10th year, the organisation put together a book, documenting the progress of sports in the country, "Go! India's Sporting Transformation" with many articles on specific subjects, including those from Dravid, Bindra and Gopi Chand.

If anything, the Presidential honour and award has kindled the hunger of the team to continue working hard, aspiring to make meaningful contribution to Indian sports. "We have the tools and the values to keep us focused and grounded. Hope we can continue to be catalysts who bring professionalism and positivity into the Indian sporting environment", Nandan said.

IN BRIEF



Denmark to retire its last four circus elephants

COPENHAGEN
The government of Denmark will buy the country's last four circus elephants in order to retire them, a Minister said on Saturday, as more countries move to shield wild animals from the practice. The animals will be sent to live in a zoo. AFP



Brazil's Bolsonaro stops using France's Bic pens

RIO DE JANEIRO
Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro has said he won't use pens made by French company Bic after a spat with President Emmanuel Macron. "No more Bic," said Mr. Bolsonaro, who has faced criticism over devastating fires in the Amazon region. He added that he would sign presidential pardons using Brazilian pen-maker Compactor's products. AP



96-year-old breaks his own oldest diver record

LARNACA
A 96-year-old Second World War veteran from Britain claims to have broken his own world record as the oldest scuba diver, diving at the popular Zenobia wreck off Cyprus' southern coast. Event sponsor Larnaca Municipality said Ray Woolley dived on his birthday on Saturday to a depth of 42.4 metres for 48 minutes. AP

Desert stars



Participants crossing the finish line in the annual Maralal Camel Derby in Maralal town, Samburu county, northern Kenya on Saturday. The annual camel race, now in its 30th year, attracts both local and international competitors to the dusty desert town. ■ AP

U.S. artefacts hint at settlers' epic trek

People thrived near a river at a time when mammoths roamed the continent

REUTERS
WASHINGTON

Artefacts, including stone tools and animal bone fragments found in the U.S. State of Idaho, date back about 16,600 years, said archaeologists. The find represents what may be the oldest evidence of humans in the Americas and offer insight into the routes people took as they spread into the New World.
Scientists said they used radiocarbon dating to determine the age of artefacts unearthed at an archaeological site called Cooper's Ferry along the Salmon River in western Idaho near the town of Cottonwood.
Ice Age landscape
People were present there at a time when large expanses of North America were covered by massive ice sheets, and big mammals such as mammoths, mastodons, sabre-toothed cats, the giant short-faced bear, horses, bi-

YouTube faces fine of \$200 mn to settle privacy violation claims

Advocacy groups say that data on young users taken without parental consent

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

Google may have to pay \$150-200 million to settle allegations that YouTube violated a children's privacy law while gathering data for targeted advertising, U.S. media reports said.
The U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC) agreed on the amount of the settlement against YouTube parent Google, which if approved by the Justice Department would be the largest settlement in a case involving children's privacy, the *New York Times* reported. The allegations against YouTube were made by privacy groups who said the platform had violated laws protecting children's privacy by gathering data on users under the age of 13 without



Regulators want more protections for children from harmful content and data collection. ■ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

obtaining permission from parents, *Politico* reported.
The FTC is expected to announce its decision on the settlement in September.
U.S. regulators have long argued that Google fails to protect children from harmful content and data collec-

mitting further violations" of children's privacy law.
Google remains the money-making engine for parent company Alphabet, with most of its revenue coming from digital ads, which accounted for \$116 billion of the \$136 billion the Silicon Valley-based company took in last year.
In January, France's CNIL data watchdog slapped Google with a record €50 million fine for failing to meet the EU's tough General Data Protection Regulation, which came into force early last year. Google is appealing the fine.
Fellow U.S. technology giant Facebook recently settled a record \$5 billion fine with the U.S. Federal Trade Commission for misusing users' private data.

Twitter CEO's account hacked

Tweets containing racial slurs showed up on Jack Dorsey's profile for 30 minutes

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SAN FRANCISCO

Twitter said on Friday that the account of chief executive Jack Dorsey had been "compromised" after a series of erratic and offensive messages were posted.
The tweets containing racial slurs and suggestions about a bomb showed up on the @jack account of the founder of the short messaging service before being deleted.
Some of the tweets contained the hashtag #ChucklingSquad, which was believed to indicate the identity of the hacker group. The same calling card was left behind during recent



Jack Dorsey

hacks of other high-profile social media personalities.
The messages contained racial epithets, and included a retweet of a message supporting Nazi Germany.
Twitter said that the phone number associated

with Dorsey's account was "compromised due to a security oversight by the mobile provider", allowing a hacker to posts tweets to @jack by sending text messages.
Mr. Dorsey's account has been secured and there was "no indication that Twitter's systems have been compromised", according to the San Francisco-based Internet firm.
It appeared that tweets posted on Mr. Dorsey's account by the hacker were up for about 30 minutes before they were removed.
A barrage of comments fired off on the platform questioned why the Twitter

co-founder didn't secure his account better, and how disturbing a sign it was that the service couldn't keep its own chief safe on the platform.
"If you can't protect Jack, you can't protect... jack," one Twitter user quipped.
The news comes with Mr. Dorsey and Twitter moving aggressively to clean up offensive and inappropriate content as part of a focus on online safety.
Cybersecurity researcher Kevin Beaumont said the account appeared to have been hijacked "via a third party called Cloudhopper, which Twitter acquired about 10 years ago and had access to this account."



Catch of the day: 'Fishermen' remove scrap metal they caught with a powerful neodyme magnet from the Oise river in northern France. ■ AFP

Magnet fishing: the hobby that is cleaning up French rivers

Risk of finding unexploded munition worries authorities

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LACROIX-SAINT-OUEN

Equipped with powerful magnets, history enthusiasts and environmentalists scour France's rivers, pulling out bits of scrap metal, bikes, scooters and the odd kitchen appliance.
Sometimes, they fish other more unexpected objects out of the water, such as unexploded munitions.
Magnet fishing has fast become a popular pastime, according to public safety officials, but French authorities have clamped down over fears that historical battle sites could still harbour active weapons.
As in other countries, participants in France tie a super magnet to a rope and drop it into waterways, partly for treasure hunting, partly for environmental reasons.
On the banks of the Oise river, in a town about 75 km north of Paris, Owen Gressier, 20, and his three fellow

magnet fishermen cast their neodymium magnets.
After several attempts at their spot near a bridge in La Croix-Saint-Ouen, they latch onto something. It takes a few minutes to haul out the item with the help of a grappling hook. A rusty, cast-iron pipe emerges: "Nice catch," they say. It's the best find that afternoon.
"We've been fishing here for a number of years, the bottom (of the river) is pretty clean," Gressier, a forklift truck operator, says.
Driven by what he calls his passion for memorabilia related to the Second World War and a quest to find medals, military gear and other historical objects, Mr. Gressier says that he also "quickly realised that it was possible to clean up the waterways".
In 2017, he set up a Facebook page, which now has more than 500 subscribers, where members share photos, advice and organise out-

ings. "It's crazy everything you can find in the water," Mr. Gressier says, listing anything from electric scooters to traffic signs and microwave ovens.
"With a dozen people, you can sometimes pull out 50 kilos of scrap metal in a few hours," he adds.
In other French regions too, where bloody battles were fought during both world wars, magnet fishing enthusiasts have discovered shells, ammunition and grenades.
And they can still be active, warns the national public safety authority.
Faced with the hobby's rising popularity in the last nearly two years, including under the Pont des Arts pedestrian bridge in central Paris, the authority has recently made police across France aware of the dangers. In May, a man was seriously injured after pulling out a shell that emitted mustard gas, in the Nord region.

Statues of 10 women unveiled in NY

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
NEW YORK

Ten statues of famous women were installed in New York this week as the first part of an international project by Australian artists to highlight gender imbalance in monuments.
Media mogul and talk show queen Oprah Winfrey, Oscar-winning actress Cate Blanchett and three-time Olympic gold medalist Gabby Douglas were among the personalities chosen by the public to be carved in bronze.
The statues, which stand around 6.5 feet tall, are the work of husband-and-wife sculpting duo Gilie and Marc Schattner.

Thank You
INDIA



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